



Supplemental City Council Candidate Packet

This document and the following weblinks supplement the Santa Monica City Clerk's Candidate Packet of Nomination Petitions and Forms. Contact the City Clerk's Office at clerk@santamonica.gov or (310) 458-8211 to make an appointment to pick up a packet of required forms to run for office.

- Candidate Guide (Including Election Calendar and Candidate Information Sheets)
- Candidate Statement Form (Fillable)
- Fair Political Practices Commission:
 - [Campaign Filing Schedule \(Local Office\)](#)
 - [Forms](#) (Including but not limited to Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501), Campaign Statement of Organization (Form 410) and Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700)
 - [Campaign Disclosure Manual 2 \(Local Candidates\)](#)
- [Santa Monica City Charter](#) (City Council)

☐

I do **NOT** elect to submit a Candidate Statement

CANDIDATE STATEMENT FORM - NONPARTISAN OFFICES

(Elections Code Sections 13307, 13308, 13311, and 13313)

READ INFORMATION ON BACK OF FORM BEFORE SUBMITTING STATEMENT

Page 1 of 2

STATEMENT OF:

CANDIDATE FOR:

ELECTION DATE: November 3, 2026

AGE:

OCCUPATION:

[BEGIN STATEMENT HERE (1 COLUMN)]

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please type your statement in the **first column** using upper- and lower-case letters. The statement text will be typeset using font style Times New Roman, size 11-point or a comparable size and style determined by system requirements. We recommend you use Times new Roman, 11-point font when submitting your statement even though it will later be formatted to fit the system requirements.

Candidate statements that are within the word limit but do not fit in the allowed column space provided will be charged double or more, depending on how many columns are used to print the statement, or the second column space will be populated with the next candidate statement by another Candidate in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet.

The format and style of the candidate statement are in a column width (newspaper) style, and the estimated cost of the candidate statement is derived from per column use.

NOTE: Spanish may be longer than the English version, so the statement may continue over into the second column for an estimated cost of two (2) columns. For more information, please contact the Election Planning Section at electionplanning@rrcc.lacounty.gov.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS INFORMATION BEFORE PURCHASING A CANDIDATE STATEMENT.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk makes every effort to mail Sample Ballots/Candidate Statements as early as possible during the voting period and prior to the voters' receipt of their Vote By Mail ballots. However, this is not always possible due to the volume of material and the complexity of coordinating mail distribution. For mailing timelines and more information, refer to Section 1, Chapter 3 of the Candidate Handbook and Resource Guide.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT FORM - NONPARTISAN OFFICES
(Elections Code Sections 13307, 13308, 13311, and 13313)
READ INFORMATION ON BACK OF FORM BEFORE SUBMITTING STATEMENT

Page 2 of 2

ESTIMATED COST

The estimate is just an approximation of the actual cost that varies from one election to another election and may be significantly more or less than the estimate, depending on number of voter registration, the length and/or format of the statement submitted, printing cost, and if it is published online only. Accordingly, the elections official is not bound by the estimate and may, on a pro rata basis, bill the candidate for additional actual expense to or refund any excess paid depending on the final actual cost. In the event of underpayment, the elections official may require the candidate pay to the balance of the cost incurred. In the event of overpayment, the elections official shall prorate the excess amount among the candidates and refund the excess amount paid.

Pursuant to California law, the local agency has authorized a word maximum of ☒ 200 or ☐ 400, and requires that the estimated cost be paid by one of the following:

- ☒ In advance, by all candidates, ☐ District will pay for all candidate statements,
☐ District will bill candidate after the election, ☐ _____

The estimated cost of your printed English statement is \$1,100 City, \$1,200 SMC/SMMUSD

The estimated cost of your printed English & Spanish statement is N/A

The estimated cost of an English Online Only Candidate Statement is \$279.60 (Please be advised that your candidate statement will only appear online and NOT in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet, if you select ONLINE ONLY (English)).

NOTE: Cost is estimated on a per column basis for the printing of the Official Sample Ballot Booklet and by a standard fee for English Online Only Candidate Statements. The estimated cost may double, triple, or quadruple depending on your language selection(s) and/or statement formatting.

I have read, understood, and enclosed the provisions contained on this form that includes all pages, and read the Candidate Handbook and Resource Guide (see Chapter 3), and request that my statement as shown to be printed as indicated:

- A. Please mark (X) one box: ☐ English ☒
B. Please mark (x) one box: ☐ Print & Online ☐ Online Only (English)



Signature of Candidate

Date

() _____
Phone Number (Daytime)

() _____
Phone Number (Evening)

Email Address

DO NOT PRINT THIS STATEMENT IN THE EVENT

INITIALS There is no opposition to this contest on the ballot.

INITIALS No other candidate for this contest files a statement.

OFFICE USE ONLY

☐ Verified filing of Declaration of Candidacy and/or Nomination Papers

Date

Election Official

Project No.	GE26	Candidate No.	
Total No. of Words:		Total No. of Enhanced Words:	
By Elections Official Deputy:			



**CITY OF
SANTA MONICA**

CANDIDATE GUIDE

General Municipal Election

November 3, 2026

www.smvote.org • clerk@santamonica.gov



CANDIDATE GUIDE
FOR
THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

November 3, 2026

Denise Anderson-Warren
INTERIM CITY CLERK
CITY OF SANTA MONICA



July 13, 2026

Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate. The Consolidated General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

This guide has been prepared for your use as you run for public office. In conjunction with your proposed candidacy, a number of City and State requirements are to be met. Forms, calendars, deadlines and instructional materials are provided for your assistance in meeting those requirements. We encourage your careful review of the materials and will be happy to go over them with you.

All forms picked up and returned to the City Clerk's Office will be by appointment only during regular business days, as posted, which are Monday through Thursday and alternating Fridays (see business hours on Candidate Guidelines). Please be advised the City Clerk's Office will be closed on **Friday, July 24th**. The close of nominations is Friday, August 7th at 5:00 p.m.

If an incumbent does not file nomination papers, pursuant to the Election Code, the last day to file nomination papers for non-incumbents would be extended to Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

The following must be submitted together at the time you file as a candidate:

1. Payment of Filing Fee (\$25)
2. Nomination Petition(s)
3. Declaration of Candidacy Form(s): One form must accompany each petition
4. Ballot Designation Worksheet (If none requested, form still required.)
5. Request/Opt-Out Confidential Status Form
6. Transliteration Form

7. Candidate's Statement of Qualifications Form (If none requested, form still required.)
 - a. If applicable, payment of Candidate's Statement Fee (\$1,100 for City Council & Rent Control Board, \$1,200 for School Board & College Board or \$279.60 for online and in English only)
 - b. Statement of Financial Worth (Optional)
8. Code of Fair Campaign Practices Form (Optional)
9. Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501)
10. Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for City candidates only. Electronic filing with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) for City Council Candidates *and paper filings with the City Clerk's Office for Rent Control Board Candidates.*
(School and College Board Candidates not required to file.)

As mentioned above, the Candidate's Statement is optional. If you elect to provide one, it will be printed in English and Spanish, as required by law.

The City Clerk's Office extends a courteous, cooperative and strictly non-partisan attitude toward all candidates at all times. While we welcome your questions and will attempt to be of assistance to you throughout this process, only your attorney may offer you legal guidance. For questions specifically related to the FPPC please call (866) 275-3772. Any other questions, you may contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211.

Sincerely,



Denise Anderson-Warren
Interim City Clerk

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION
CANDIDATE GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION DOCUMENTS

Issuance of Candidate Nomination Documents

During the Nomination Period of July 13, 2026 to August 7, 2026 (extended to August 12, 2026, if an incumbent does not file), candidates will be issued nomination documents in-person only and by appointment at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica.

A Candidates' Workshop will be offered in-person at City Hall in the Council Chamber on July 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and candidates are encouraged to attend.

To make an appointment, candidates should contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or clerk@santamonica.gov. Appointments will be scheduled in half hour increments during the following times:

July 13, 2026:	1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
July 14, 2026 – August 6, 2026:	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (<i>except on July 24, 2026 when City Hall is closed</i>)
August 7, 2026:	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If the deadline for non-incumbents is extended to August 12, 2026, then appointments are still required between 8:00–11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Documents may be issued to a candidate's representative provided that the representative submits written authorization from the candidate to conduct candidate-related business on their behalf. The authorization should include the candidate's name, office sought, residence address, public address if any, telephone number(s)/email address(es), and the name of the authorized person(s) that will be responsible for picking up and/or filing the candidate's documents. One Nomination Packet and two Petitions will be issued per office sought, and additional petitions or packets may be purchased for \$50/each and \$2/each respectively.

Execution of Nomination Documents

Documents that require an oath by the candidate must be executed in the City Clerk's Office during an appointment. If an authorized representative drops off on behalf of the candidate, then documents must be executed by the candidate in the presence of a notary and submitted to the office.

Submission of Nomination Documents and Filing Deadlines

Submission of completed documents will only be in-person by advance appointment at the City Clerk's Office. To make an appointment to submit completed documents, follow the procedures set forth above.

The mandatory \$25 Nomination Filing Fee and applicable Candidate Statement Fee (\$1,100 for City candidates, \$1,200 for School and College Board candidates, or \$279.60 for English online statements only) must be submitted at the time of filing documents. Check, money order or credit only, and a surcharge will be applied to debit/credit transactions.

To be a qualified candidate for office, all required documents must be completed and filed with the City Clerk's Office by the close of the nomination period (5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026 or 5:30 p.m. on August 12, 2026 if an incumbent does not file for that office). No late documents will be accepted. Any candidate who fails to timely submit documents by the close of the nomination period will not be included in the ballot. An electronic copy of the candidate statement in Word should also be emailed to clerk@santamonica.gov.

NEW: For City candidates, required forms include the Fair Political Practices Commission's (FPPC) Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700). Council candidates must electronically file with the FPPC. Rent Control Board candidates will continue to file paper forms with the City Clerk. The Form 700 is not required for School and College Board candidates.

Denise Anderson-Warren
INTERIM CITY CLERK

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GENERAL INFORMATION

TYPE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

The California State Constitution provides for two types of cities: Charter and General Law. There is little difference in the day-to-day operation of the two types of cities. A charter city, however, has considerably more authority than a general law city to tax, regulate and adopt its own procedures and organization. Within the limitations of its own charter, a city may perform any municipal function not prohibited by state or federal law.

The City of Santa Monica was incorporated as a general law city in December 1886 and was granted a charter in 1907. The charter was changed in November 1946 to establish the present council-manager form of government.

FORM OF CITY GOVERNMENT

The council-manager form of government, established by the 1946 Charter, has become the most popular form of local government in California. In this type of government, the Council enacts local laws, makes policy decisions, approves programs, adopts the budget and gives general direction to the City Manager.

The Council appoints and may remove the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Clerk. The City Manager is responsible to the Council for the preparation of the budget, the enforcement of city laws and the administrative operation of the city. The City Manager also acts as the technical advisor to the Council. This system fixes authority and responsibility for policy in the City Council and administrative responsibility and authority in the City Manager. The City Manager appoints all other department heads.

THE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council establishes local laws, sets policy, rejects or approves programs, appropriates funds, and in general, represents the public wishes in supervising the operations of the city. In charter cities, the Council must act within the framework of the city charter and state laws.

Councilmembers have legal powers and authority only as members of the Council when meeting in a legally-convened Council session. All Council meetings, except closed sessions dealing with real property transactions, personnel matters, or litigation, or as otherwise provided for in the Brown Act are open to the public.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m., and on additional days as needed, to conduct the City's business. During 2025, the City Council met a total of 32 times. The City Council also convenes as the Housing Authority, the Parking Authority, the Redevelopment Successor Agency, and the Public Financing Authority of the City of Santa Monica. Selected Councilmembers may be appointed to serve on Council Subcommittees such as the Audit Subcommittee.

The local laws established by the Council are enacted as ordinances and are compiled in the Municipal Code. Other directives and policies of the Council are recorded in uncodified ordinances, resolutions and in the minutes of the Council meetings. All these records are available to the public.

Shortly after each municipal election, the Council shall select the longest continuously serving Councilmember, whether initially elected or appointed, to serve as Mayor for a 1 year term. Each subsequent December the next longest continuously serving Councilmember shall be selected as Mayor for a 1-year term, then rotating each December to select the Mayor in order of the next longest serving Councilmember. If two or more Councilmembers were elected at the same election, the Councilmember receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered as having served longer for purposes of this provision. The Mayor Pro Tempore may be selected by simple majority vote without regard to this provision. The Mayor presides over Council meetings and in theory acts as head of the City. The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as the Mayor, in their absence. Santa Monica Municipal Elections are held the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even numbered years.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS – CITY COUNCIL

As provided for in Section 602 of the Santa Monica City Charter, on November 1998, a charter amendment that provided compensation with a built in CPI for Councilmembers and the Mayor was approved by the voters. As of Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Councilmembers received \$1,635 per month and the Mayor receives \$1,960 per month. The compensation received by members of the City Council and Mayor is automatically adjusted effective July 1 of each year, in an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the twelve-month period immediately preceding July 1. Members of the City Council also receive medical, dental, health, and other benefits of employment paid for by the City, provided these benefits are routinely and customarily available and paid for by the City to City employees. The City Councilmembers receive reimbursement and allowance for travel and for other expenses related to fulfilling their official duties and the holding of public office upon the same terms and conditions applicable to City departmental directors.

For information on duties, compensation and benefits of other elected offices, please call:

RENT CONTROL – Jonathan Holub, Rent Control Administrator at (310) 458-8751.

COLLEGE BOARD – Dr. Kathryn Jeffrey, Superintendent and President at (310) 434-4200.

SCHOOL BOARD – Dr. Antonio Shelton, Superintendent of Schools at (310) 450-8338.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA ELECTION STATISTICS

DATE	REGISTERED VOTERS	VOTES CAST	PERCENTAGE OF TURNOUT
Nov-24	69,038	52,517	76.07
Nov-22	67,392	39,542	58.67
Nov-20	71,970	57,309	79.63
Nov-18	69,686	46,766	67.11
Nov-16	80,742	61,018	75.6
Nov-14	58,803	28,333	48.1
Nov-12	60,821	47,958	78.8
Nov-10	59,120	38,128	64.49
Nov-08	58,281	50,978	87.4
Nov-06	57,455	34,440	59.9
Nov-04	59,349	33,808	56.96
Mar-03	55,193	18,763	33
Nov-02	56,501	30,853	54
Nov-00	59,305	46,659	72
Apr-99	54,156	14,869	27
Nov-98	55,237	33,026	60
Nov-96	70,079	47,844	68
Mar-96	54,508	20,726	38
Nov-94	56,399	35,235	62
Jun-94	53,942	17,660	33
Nov-92	57,464	46,187	80.3
Jun-92	51,381	27,757	54
Nov-90	54,427	34,606	63.6
Jun-90	53,107	25,670	48
Nov-88	58,546	45,510	77.7
Jun-88	56,158	27,801	49.5
Nov-86	57,971	38,105	65.7
Jun-86	54,369	27,284	50.2
Nov-84	60,694	46,381	76.4
Jun-84	54,330	33,415	61.5
Apr-83	54,270	29,597	54.5



OFFICES TO BE VOTED UPON



CITY COUNCIL

Three Seats for 4-Year Terms
Expiring November 2030

Incumbents

Lana Negrete
Caroline Torosis
Jesse Zwick

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD

(For more information on the duties and benefits of the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, please contact Jonathan Holub, Rent Control Administrator at (310) 458-8751.)

Three Seats for 4-Year Terms
Expiring November 2030

Incumbents

Kurt Gonska
Danny Ivanov
Ericka Lesley

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(For more information on the duties and benefits of the Santa Monica Community College Board of Trustees, please contact Board Secretary, Superintendent Dr. Kathryn Jeffery at (310) 434-4200.)

Four Seats for 4-Year Terms
Expiring November 2030

Incumbents

Luis Barrera Castañón
Nancy Greenstein
Tom Peters
Sion Roy

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

(For more information on the duties and benefits of the Board of Education, contact Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton at (310) 450-8338.)

Four Seats for 4-Year Terms
Expiring November 2030

Incumbents

Laurie Lieberman
Alicia Mignano
Stacy Rouse
Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

**ELECTION CALENDAR
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

DATE	EVENT
July 13	Nomination Period – First day to pick up nomination papers. Candidate Workshop in Council Chambers, 10:00 A.M.
August 7	Nomination Period – Last day to file nomination papers, unless an incumbent fails to file. Deadline is 5:00 P.M.
August 10	Last day candidates can withdraw nomination papers. Deadline is 5:00 P.M.
August 12	Extended last day to file nomination papers, if incumbent does not file. Deadline is 5:30 P.M.
August 13	Last day to withdraw candidate statements, if filing period is extended. Deadline is 5:00 P.M. Secretary of State to hold public drawing to determine order of names on ballot.
August 26	Fair Political Practices Commissions (FPPC) Candidates and Treasurer Webinar, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. Contact clerk@santamonica.gov for meeting link.
September 7 – October 20	Filing period for write-in candidates. Deadline is 5:30 P.M.
October 5	First day for Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to mail Vote by Mail ballots to voters.
October 19	Last day to register to vote.
November 3	Election Day (7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.)
December 8 (Tentative)	Council meeting to install new officers in Council Chambers.
February 1, 2027	Semi-Annual Campaign Disclosure Statements due.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

20. General Provisions

(a) A person shall not be considered a candidate for, and is not eligible to be elected to, any state or local elective office if the person has been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

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

200. Nominations

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, there shall be set forth in full in the declaration of candidacy required for any primary or final election the oath or affirmation set forth in Section 3 of Article XX of the Constitution.

10220.5. Nomination of Candidates

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a candidate shall not file nomination papers for more than one municipal office or term of office for the same municipality in the same election.

10223.

Each nomination paper shall be accompanied by a declaration of candidacy pursuant to Section 10226.3.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY - <i>continued</i>

10224.

All nomination papers shall be filed with the city elections official during regular business hours as posted, not later than the 88th day before the election. Until that time, but not after, a candidate may withdraw his or her nomination paper after it is filed with the elections official as provided in this section.

10226.3.

(b) At the discretion of the elections official, a candidate for any office whose voter registration information is confidential under Section 2166, 2166.5, 2166.7, 2166.8, or 2166.9 may withhold the candidate's residence address from the declaration of candidacy. If a candidate does not state the candidate's residence address on the declaration of candidacy, the elections official shall verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration.

(c) If a candidate will not be within the State of California within the entire nomination period and is unable to appear before a notary public appointed by the Secretary of State or other state official to complete their declaration of candidacy, the candidate may appear before a notary public in another state to complete the declaration of candidacy. The candidate shall attach to their declaration of candidacy a notarial certificate from the out-of-state notary that complies with the law of the notary's state.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

2166.9. Voter, Registration, Forms

(a) For purposes of this section, "elected official or candidate" means a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office.

(b) An elected official or candidate shall have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(c) (1) When a person files nomination papers for an elected federal or state office, the Secretary of State shall provide to each county elections official a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in each respective county.

(2) When a person files nomination papers for an elected local office, the county elections official shall add that individual's name to a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in that county. The county elections official shall periodically update the list for each election cycle.

(3) Within five business days of receipt of the list described in paragraph (1) or, for an office for which nomination papers are filed with the county elections official, within five business days of the filing of nomination papers with the county elections official, the county elections official shall make confidential that elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

(d) (1) The county elections official, in producing any list, roster, or index, shall exclude voters with a confidential voter status pursuant to this section.

(2) Within 60 days of moving to a new county, if available in the new county, the elected official or candidate shall apply for confidential voter status pursuant to this section. The elections official of the new county, upon notice of the confidential voter moving into the county, shall do all of the following:

(A) Contact the confidential voter and provide information regarding the application for confidential voter status in the new county.

CONFIDENTIAL STATUS – *continued*

(B) Honor the confidential voter status from the former county for 60 days from the date of notice.

(C) Pursuant to paragraph (1), exclude the confidential voter in any list, roster, or index during the 60-day period.

(D) Remove the confidential voter status if the new voter has not obtained or cannot obtain confidential voter status pursuant to this section in the new county during the 60-day period.

(e) An elected official or candidate shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(f) An elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address shall remain confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.

(g) A county or county elections official shall not be liable for taking or failing to take the actions described in this section when the county or county elections official has received erroneous information from the Secretary of State.

(h) An action in negligence shall not be maintained against any government entity or officer or employee thereof as a result of the disclosure of the information that is the subject of this section, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(i) An elected official or candidate holding office as of the effective date of this section shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section. County elections officials shall make the elected official's information confidential when contacted by the elected official or candidate.

(j) (1) A candidate who does not wish to have confidential voter status may opt out when completing their candidate filing statement provided by a county elections official.

(2) (A) An elected official who wishes to opt out of confidential voter status may submit a letter to the county elections official declaring their decision to be exempt from the requirements of this section.

CONFIDENTIAL STATUS - *continued*

(B) A request pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the elected official's full name, voter registration address, and a clear statement that they wish to opt out of having their residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section.

(C) Upon receipt of the request, the county elections official shall remove the confidential designation from the individual's voter registration record within five business days.

(D) The county elections official shall notify the Secretary of State and any other relevant local elections officials of the decision to opt out within five business days of processing the request.

(E) An elected official who opts out may reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving in or running for office, and confidential voter status shall be reinstated in accordance with this section upon receipt of the request.

(k) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section may be disclosed only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes. A person seeking an elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for a journalistic purpose pursuant to this section shall apply to the Secretary of State or to a county elections official as specified in paragraph (2).

(2)(A) A person seeking a federal or state elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit all of the following to the Secretary of State:

(i) A completed California Voter Registration File Request application.

(ii) A letter of authorization or affiliation from the media outlet that the person represents. If the person submitting the request is a member of the media, a press pass may be submitted in lieu of a letter of authorization.

(iii) A declaration under penalty of perjury attesting to the intended journalistic use of the information.

CONFIDENTIAL STATUS - *continued*

(B) A person seeking a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit requests to the county elections official or other local elections official.

(C) A county elections official shall process a request for a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes consistent with the requirements of regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(D) The county elections official shall retain records of all requests for, and disclosures of, a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes. The county elections official may reject a request that does not clearly adhere to the requirements of this subdivision.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, "journalistic purposes" shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with subdivision (b) of Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.



CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

The following information is provided to all Santa Monica residents by the City Clerk's Office of the City of Santa Monica with the intent of clarifying the process for nominating candidates for City elective offices and to answer the most frequently asked questions. ***Please note that any person soliciting signatures on a nomination petition for an elective office must make this form available to any member of the public. Although the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica College consolidate their respective elections with the City of Santa Monica, these regulations do not apply to candidates for School Board or the College Board seats.***

What kind of City elective offices are there?

There are two types of elective offices in the City of Santa Monica, the City Council and the City's Rent Control Board. For the November 3, 2026 election there will be three vacant seats on the City Council and three vacant seats on the Rent Control Board for full-terms ending in 2030.

Who can be a candidate for these offices?

Any resident who is a registered voter in the City of Santa Monica may run for a City Council or a Rent Control Board seat.

How does a candidate get nominated? How does a candidate's name get placed on the ballot?

A candidate must obtain at least 100 valid signatures from Santa Monica registered voters on a Nomination Petition. Either the candidate or any person who is the age of 18 or older may circulate a Nomination Petition. The petition must be filed with the City Clerk no earlier than the 113th day (July 13, 2026) and no later than the 88th day (August 7, 2026) before the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election. Should an incumbent not file by the filing deadline on the 88th day, the filing period shall be extended to the 83rd day (August 12, 2026) for candidates other than the incumbent for the elective office. To run as a Write-In Candidate, the petition must be filed no earlier than the 57th day (September 7, 2026) and no later than the 14th day (October 20, 2026) before the Election.

How many Nominations Petitions may a voter sign?

No voter may sign more than one nomination petition for the same office, and in the event the voter does so, that voter's signature shall count only on the first nomination petition filed which contains the voter's signature.

What if I sign the petition but change my mind later and want to rescind my signature?

Any voter who has signed any petition, and who subsequently wishes his or her name withdrawn, may do so by filing a written request for the withdrawal of the signature with the City Clerk's Office. This request must be filed prior to the date the petition is filed with the City Clerk and include the name of the candidate, voter's name, voter's residence address and voter's signature.

What other information can I obtain regarding this topic?

On the back of this page are the related sections of the Santa Monica Municipal Code and the State Elections Code. These regulations should be considered only as they apply to local elections. If you have any other questions related to nomination of candidates for City elective offices or elections in general, please visit santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/elections or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211.

Santa Monica Municipal Code

Section 11.04.010: Nomination of candidates. Not earlier than the one hundred thirteenth day nor later than the close of business on the eighty-eighth day before a municipal election, the voters may nominate candidates for election by signing nomination papers. If the nomination paper for an incumbent officer is not filed by the close of business on the eighty-eighth day before the election, the voters shall have until the close of business on the eighty-third day before the election to nominate candidates other than the incumbent for the elective office. Each candidate shall be proposed by not less than one hundred voters, but only one candidate may be named in any one nomination petition. Any person age 18 or older may circulate a nomination paper. Where there are full terms and short terms to be filed, the term shall be specified in the nomination paper. All nomination papers must be filed with the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall charge and collect a filing fee, in the amount of twenty-five dollars, from each candidate at time of filing nomination papers.

California State Elections Code. Division 0.5. Preliminary Provisions.

Chapter 2. Petition and Petition Signers. 102. Voter may circulate petition. Age of circulator. A person shall not circulate a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition or nominating paper unless the person is 18 years of age or older.

Chapter 3. Nominations. 201. Eligibility to be elected or appointed.

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

Division 10. Local, Special, Vacancy and Consolidated Elections. Part 2. Municipal Elections. Article 2. Nomination of Candidates.

10220.5. Candidate shall not file for more than one municipal office at the same election.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a candidate shall not file nomination papers for more than one municipal office or term of office for the same municipality in the same election.

10221. Signatures; nomination papers; supplemental petition.

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the signatures to each nomination paper shall be appended on the same sheet of paper, and each signer shall add his or her place of residence, giving the street and number, if any, or another designation of his or her place of residence, so as to enable its location to be readily ascertained.

(b) Once a nomination paper is filed with the elections official, the nomination paper may not be returned to the candidate to obtain additional signatures. If the nomination paper is determined to be insufficient or the candidate fails to obtain the correct number of valid signatures on his or her nomination paper, the elections official shall retain the original nomination paper, provide a copy of the nomination paper to the candidate with an indication on of which signatures are valid, and issue one supplemental petition to the candidate on which the candidate may collect additional signatures. The supplemental petition shall be filed not later than the last day for filing for that office. The form of the supplemental petition shall be the same as the nomination paper, except that the word "Supplemental" shall be inserted above the phrase "Nomination Paper."

10222. Affidavit of circulator.

Every nomination paper shall have annexed an affidavit of the person who circulated it, to the effect that he or she saw written all the signatures appended thereto, and knows that they are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be.



FOLLETO DE INFORMACION DE CANDIDATOS

La siguiente información es presentada a todos los residentes de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica de parte de la Secretaria Municipal con intención de explicar el proceso para nominar a candidatos para cargos municipales electivos y para contestar las preguntas más frecuentes. ***Favor de notar que cualquier persona que solicita la firma de un residente para una petición de candidatura es requerido que se le presente esta forma a cualquier miembro del público. Aunque el Distrito Escolar de Santa Mónica-Malibu y el Distrito del Colegio Comunitario consolidan sus elecciones con la elección municipal de Santa Mónica, estas reglas no se aplican a candidatos al Distrito Escolar o al Distrito del Colegio Comunitario.***

¿Qué tipo de puestos electivos municipales existen?

Hay dos tipos de puestos electivos en la Ciudad de Santa Mónica, el Consejo Municipal y la Junta de Control de Alquileres. Para las elecciones del 3 de noviembre de 2026, habrá tres puestos vacantes en el Consejo Municipal y tres puestos vacantes en la Junta de Control de Alquileres para mandatos completos de cuatro (4) años que finalicen en 2030.

¿Quien puede ser candidato para estos puestos?

Cualquier residente que está registrado para votar en la Ciudad de Santa Mónica puede lanzarse como candidato para un cargo en el Consejo Municipal o para la Junta de Control de Alquileres.

¿Como se nomina a un candidato? ¿Como se logra poner el nombre de un candidato en la boleta electoral?

Un candidato tiene que obtener en la petición de nominación un mínimo de 100 firmas validas de votantes registrados de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica. El candidato o cualquier persona de 18 años o mayor pueden circular la petición de nominación. La petición debe presentarse ante la Secretaria Municipal no antes del día 113 (13 de julio de 2026) y a más tardar el día 88 (7 de agosto de 2026) antes de la Elección Municipal General del 3 de noviembre de 2026. Si alguno de los titulares para los puestos vacantes no presenta su solicitud para la fecha límite de presentación del día 88 (7 de agosto de 2026), el plazo de presentación se extenderá por cinco días más, hasta el día 83 (12 de agosto de 2026), para cualquier otro candidato para el cargo electivo menos el titular. Para postularse como candidato por escrito, la petición debe presentarse no antes del día 57 (7 de septiembre de 2026) y a más tardar el día 14 (20 de octubre de 2026) antes de la Elección.

¿Cuántas Peticiones de Nominación puede firmar cualquier votante?

Ningún votante puede firmar más de una petición de nominación para el mismo cargo, y si lo hace, la firma del votante solo contará en la primera petición de nominación presentada que contenga su firma.

¿Qué pasa si firmo una petición y después cambio de parecer y quiero anular mi firma?

Cualquier votante que quiere anular su firma en una petición lo puede hacer poniendo en escrito su demanda y presentándola a la Secretaria Municipal. Esta demanda tiene que ser presentada antes de que el candidato presente su petición a la Secretaria Municipal y debe incluir el nombre de la petición, el nombre del votante, la dirección de residencia del votante y la firma del votante.

¿Que otra información puedo obtener sobre este tema?

Atrás de esta hoja están presentadas las secciones del Código Municipal y del Código de Elecciones Estatal. Estos requisitos se aplican solamente a elecciones municipales. Si tiene alguna otra pregunta relacionada con la nominación de candidatos para las oficinas electivas de la ciudad o las elecciones en general, por favor visite santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/elections o llame a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al número (310) 458-8211.

Información de Candidatos - continuada

Código Municipal de Santa Mónica

Sección 11.04.010: Nominación de candidatos. No antes del 113 día y no después del término del día de trabajo, 88 días antes de las elecciones municipales, votantes podrán nominar a candidatos para elección por medio de su firma en una petición de nominación. Si para el fin del 88 día antes de la elección el titular falla a presentar su petición de nominación, los votantes tendrán hasta el fin del día 83 (cinco días mas) para nominar a algún candidato a ese puesto que no sea el titular. Cada candidato será nominado por un mínimo de 100 votantes, pero solo un candidato podrá ser nombrado por petición de nominación. Cualquier persona de 18 años o mayor podrá circular una petición de nominación. En donde haya términos completos y términos parciales, tal será reflejado en la petición de nominación. Todas las peticiones de nominación serán presentadas a la Secretaria Municipal. La Secretaria Municipal cobrará y recogerá un honorario de presentación, en la cantidad de veinticinco dólares, de cada candidato en el momento de presentar los documentos de nominación.

Código Estatal de Elecciones. División 0.5. Disposiciones Preliminares.

Capítulo 2. Peticiones y Firmantes de Petición, 102. Votante puede circular petición. Edad de circulador. Una persona no deberá circular un iniciativa estatal o local, referendum, o petición para la elección del proceso de destitución o petición de nominaciones a menos que tenga 18 años de edad o mayor.

Capítulo 3. Nominaciones. 201. Elegibilidad para ser elegido o nombrado.

A menos que sea proveído de otra manera, cualquier persona no será elegible para ser elegido o nombrado a algún puesto a menos de que esa persona esté registrada para votar y calificada para votar para ese puesto, al tiempo de que los documentos de nominación se le otorguen a la persona o a la hora de nombramiento al puesto.

División 10. Elecciones Locales, Especiales, Vacantes y Consolidadas. Parte 2. Elecciones Municipales. Artículo 2. Nominación de Candidatos.

10220.5 Candidatos no podrán presentar peticiones para más de un puesto municipal en la misma elección.

Fuera de alguna otra provisión legal, cualquier candidato no podrá presentar peticiones de nominaciones para más de un puesto municipal, para el mismo municipio, en la misma elección.

10221. Firmas; peticiones de nominación; petición suplemental.

(a) Con la excepción de la subdivisión (b), las firmas en cada petición de nominación serán incluidas en una misma pagina, y todo firmante agregara su domicilio, dando el nombre de la calle y el numero, si existe, o cualquier otra seña de su lugar de residencia para asegurar que tal lugar se puede reconocer fácilmente.

(b) Ya habiéndose presentado la petición de nominación con la oficial de elecciones, tal documento no se le podrá devolver al candidato para obtener mas firmas. Si no hay suficiente firmas validas en la petición, la oficial de elecciones se quedará con el documento original y le proveerá una copia al candidato indicando cuales firmas fueron validas, y le proveerá una petición suplemental al candidato para que pueda obtener mas firmas. La petición suplemental será sometida no más tarde que el último día para presentar las peticiones de ese puesto. La forma de la petición suplemental será en la misma forma de la petición de nominación, excepto que la palabra "Suplemental" aparecerá antes de la frase "Petición de Nominación."

10222. Declaración del circulador de petición.

Cada petición tendrá anexo una declaración de la persona que obtuvo las firmas, declarando que el o ella vio cuando las firmas en la petición fueron escritas, y que sabe que son las firmas de las personas que los nombres representan.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT
FOR PUBLISHING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK'S
SAMPLE BALLOT AND/OR WEBSITE

A candidate statement tells the voters about you and your qualifications. The statement is included in the Sample Ballot mailed to registered voters in the jurisdiction and/or posted online. The statement is optional and there is a charge for printing, mailing and/or posting online. It is in each candidate's interest to use their 200 words wisely and within the permissible scope of Election Code Section 13307. Statements should be checked for spelling and punctuation as the Elections Official is not permitted to edit any material contained therein. The Candidate Statement form must be filed at the time other nomination documents are returned for filing and an electronic version be emailed to clerk@santamonica.gov. After it is filed, the statement may not be changed and may only be withdrawn up to 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2026 (or 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2026, if the deadline is extended). If you would like to see samples of candidate statements printed in previous elections, please see our website at santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/elections.

NOTICE TO PERSONS SUBMITTING CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS LIMITED TO CANDIDATE'S OWN QUALIFICATIONS
This applies to all candidates.

The California Elections Code and case law prohibit CANDIDATES from making any reference to another candidate or to another candidate's qualification, character or activities. If the ELECTIONS OFFICIAL discovers improper content in a candidate statement, the 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 ELECTIONS OFFICIAL, 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 ELECTIONS OFFICIAL 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 Section 13308. For these candidates, the ELECTIONS OFFICIAL 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 may want to refer to California Elections Code Sections 13307, 13307.5, 13308, 13311, 13313, and 13314, as well as the California Court of Appeal ruling in *Dean v. Superior Court*, (1998 4th Dist.) 62 Cal. App. 4th 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 Election Code Sections and the Dean decision are available from our office at no cost.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are used by Election Officials 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-word limit, the author will be asked to delete words or change text until the statement conforms with requirements.

COUNTING OF WORDS

(Elections Code. Division 0.5 Preliminary Provisions. Chapter 1. General Provisions, Section 9)

9. (a) Counting of words, for purposes of this code, shall be as follows:
 - (1) Punctuation is not counted.
 - (2) Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section.
 - (3) All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City and County of San Francisco" shall be counted as one word.
 - (4) Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.
 - (5) Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, including a generally available standard reference dictionary published online, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
 - (6) Dates shall be counted as one word.
 - (7) Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number which is spelled, such as "one," shall be considered as a separate word or words. "One" shall be counted as one word whereas "one hundred" shall be counted as two words. "100" shall be counted as one word.
 - (8) Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
 - (9) Internet website addresses shall be counted as one word.
- (b) This section does not apply to counting words for ballot designations under Section 13107.



POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974

All candidates for elective offices and all committees supporting or opposing state or local candidates or ballot measures, are subject to the provisions of the state Political Reform Act of 1974, which went into effect January 1975. (Government Code, Title 9, 81000 et. seq.)

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires all candidates for municipal office to file a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests at the time of filing the nomination papers. Generally, the candidate is instructed to disclose investments, interest in real property and business positions held on the date of filing the declaration of candidacy. Once filed the document becomes a part of the public record which is open to inspection.

Only candidates for City Council and Rent Control Board are required to file. City Council candidates must electronically file a Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests with the Fair Political Practices Commission and paper submissions are not acceptable. Successful candidates for School Board District and College District Board will be required to file upon taking office for the respective Boards.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has prepared an information manual (Manual 2). A candidate must review the manual and make certain the committee treasurer, and other personnel involved in the financial side of the campaign are fully aware of their responsibilities under the law. Reporting forms and manuals will be issued to all candidates at the time the nomination papers are picked up from the City Clerk. (Government Code 81010, 83113)

All statements filed are a matter of public record. They may be inspected at the City Clerk's Office by anyone, and copies can be purchased at ten cents (\$.10) per page. (Government Code 81008)

The law provides for a \$10 per day late filing penalty for a campaign statement filed after the prescribed deadline. Local ordinance requires that campaign disclosure statements be electronically filed with the City Clerk. (Government Code 91013 and Santa Monica Municipal Code 11.04.100)

Violations of the campaign disclosure law may result in criminal and civil prosecution by the State Attorney General or the County District Attorney; or Civil action by the FPPC, the District Attorney, or a private citizen. (Government Code 91000 et. seq.)

Candidates and committee treasures should keep complete records and be prepared to submit supporting documents if such are required. (Government Code 90000 et. seq.)

Candidates and controlled committees and any committee formed primarily to support or oppose a candidate or measure and all other committees that have made expenditures of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more, or received contributions of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more during a calendar year must file campaign statements.

No monetary contribution or expenditure of \$100 or more may be made or received in cash. All monetary contributions of \$100 or more must be made by a check or other instrument containing the name, address, occupation and employer of both the payee and donor. (Government Code 84300)

No person shall make a contribution on behalf of another, while acting as the intermediary or agent of another, without disclosing to the recipient of the contribution both his own full name and street address, occupation, and the name of his employer, if any, or his principal place of business if he is self-employed, and the full name and street address, occupation, and the name of employer, if any, or principal place of business if self-employed, of the other person.

Fair Political Practices Commission
Filing Schedule for Candidates and Controlled Committees for Local Office
Being Voted on November 3, 2026 Ballot

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Jul 31, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	* – 6/30/26	460	All committees must file this statement. *Local ordinance requires electronic filing through NetFile.
Within 24 Hours <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	8/5/26 – 11/3/26	497	- File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. - File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot. - The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. - File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online if available.
Sept 24, 2026 <i>1st Pre-Election</i>	7/1/26 – 9/19/26	460 or 470	Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below). *Local ordinance requires electronic filing through NetFile.
Oct 22, 2026 <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	9/20/26 – 10/17/26	460	All committees must file this statement. *Local ordinance requires electronic filing through NetFile.
Feb 1, 2027 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	10/18/26 – 12/31/26	460	All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day. *Local ordinance requires electronic filing through NetFile.

- Period Covered: The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- Local Ordinance: Always check whether additional local rules apply.
- Deadlines Extensions: Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report (Form 497) that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.

- Method of Delivery: Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by first class mail. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing pursuant to a local ordinance.
- Form 501: All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- Form 460: Candidates who have raised/spent \$2,000 or more file the Form 460. The form 410 (Statement of Organization) must also be filed once \$2,000 or more has been raised/spent.
- Form 470: Candidates who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file Form 470 on or before September 24, 2026. If the candidate raises or spends \$2,000 or more, later during the calendar year, a Form 470 Supplement and a Form 410 must be filed.
- Independent Expenditures: Committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures also file:
 - 496: This form is due within 24 hours if made in a 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. Form 496 is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
 - 462: This form must be emailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- After the Election: Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See Campaign Disclosure Manual 2 for additional information.
- Public Documents: All statements and reports are public documents.
- Resources: Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available at www.fppc.ca.gov > Learn > Campaign Rules. Refer to the FPPC video tutorial for candidates and treasurers for basic information for candidates and committees.

California Campaign Filing Schedule – 01 Local Candidate 2026 – 05/01/25
 FPPC E-mail Advice advice@fppc.ca.gov
 Toll-Free Advice Line 1-866-ASK-FPPC
 Website: www.fppc.ca.gov



INFORMATION TO CANDIDATES FOR CITY ELECTED OFFICES *IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OAKS INITIATIVE*

The Oaks Initiative, also known as the "Taxpayer Protection Act," was adopted by Santa Monica voters on November 2000, and amends the City Charter. Its requirements affect all City-elected and appointed officials. The City Attorney prepared the following information about the Initiative that may affect you if you are elected to either the Santa Monica Rent Control Board or the City Council. Please read it carefully.

PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE INITIATIVE

"City public officials" must comply with the Initiative. The Initiative partially defines "public official" as including any elected or appointed public official acting in an official capacity." This would include:

- City Council /Rent Control Board members
- Planning Commission members
- City Manager and Department heads and designees who confer "public benefits" (e.g., contracts, purchase orders, and discretionary permits, variances or text amendments)

WHAT THE INITIATIVE REQUIRES

The Initiative prohibits City public officials who have approved or voted to approve a "public benefit"¹ from receiving a "personal or campaign advantage"² from the recipient of the "public benefit" for one year from the time the City public official leaves office, or five years after conferring the "public benefit," whichever is shorter. The "recipient" of the public benefit includes the applicant and anyone who is an officer in or has more than a 10% interest in the applicant entity.

Example 1: A Councilmember/Commissioner who voted to approve a land use project valued in excess of \$25,000 cannot thereafter receive from the "recipient" employment, a gift valued at \$50 or more, or any campaign contribution for the designated time period.

1. "Public benefits" include:

- a) Personal services contracts in excess of \$25,000 over any 12 month period;
- b) Sale of material, equipment or supplies to the City in excess of \$25,000 over a 12 month period;
- c) Purchase, sale or lease of real property to or from the City in excess of \$25,000 over a 12 month period;
- d) Non-competitive franchise awards with gross revenue of \$50,000 or more in any 12 month period;
- e) Land use variance, special use permit, or other exception to an established land use plan, where the decision has a value in excess of \$25,000;
- f) Tax "abatement, exception, or benefit" of a value in excess of \$5,000 in any 12 month period; or
- g) Payment of "cash or specie" of a net value to the recipient of \$10,000 in any 12 month period.

2. "Personal or campaign advantage" includes:

- a) Any gift, honoraria, emolument, or personal pecuniary benefit of a value in excess of \$50;
- b) Any employment for compensation; and
- c) Any campaign contributions for any elective office a City public official may pursue.

Example 2: An employee of the City or an operating company who approves a contract valued over \$25,000 cannot thereafter receive a gift valued at \$50 or more for the designated period.

DUTIES OF CITY PUBLIC OFFICIALS UNDER THE INITIATIVE

The City is working on the logistics of maintaining lists of persons or entities receiving "public benefits" from the City. Tracking will be required for qualifying "public benefits" conferred after May 12, 2005. "Public officials" have the following duties under the Initiative:

1. Keep track of all actions by which you confer a "public benefit."

The City will assist with this duty by tracking the conferring of "public benefits" on list(s) maintained by the City. Appropriate staff will assist Board members in tracking this information. Public officials may also wish to maintain their own records of their actions conferring benefits.

2. Keep track of all campaign contributions for any elective office you may pursue.

Public officials should keep track of contributions for any office they pursue, including those outside the City (such as state or federal office). Since officials cannot receive campaign contributions from those upon whom they have conferred a "public benefit," they should monitor whether campaign contributors are on the list(s) of qualifying "public benefits" they have conferred. The Initiative does not prohibit receiving campaign contributions/gifts before officials approve or vote to approve the "public benefit."

3. Return any "personal or campaign advantages" you may receive within 10 days of its receipt.

Officials must return any of these advantages to the donor if they have also conferred a "public benefit" on the donor. For example, if an official approves purchases of \$25,000 of equipment and the vendor thereafter gives the official two \$30 tickets to a concert, the official must return the tickets in 10 days.

4. Provide, upon inquiry, the names of all recipients of "public benefits" you voted to confer or otherwise conferred.

You may provide your own list or refer the person making the request to the City Clerk or other appropriate City workers.

PENALTIES

A civil action may be brought against the City public official and a civil monetary penalty may be imposed. Knowing or willful violations may result in a misdemeanor prosecution.

Copies of the Initiative are available from the City Clerk's Office. Questions may be directed to the City Attorney or the City Clerk

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES:

CANDIDATE SERVICES

(562) 462-2317

(Examples of information provided: Registered voter lists, maps, precinct lists, polling site lists, etc.)

Or:

<http://www.lavote.gov>

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION:

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE

(866) ASK-FPPC

(916) 322-5660

Monday – Thursday

9:00am –11:30am

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING:

Campaign Disclosure

State Contribution Limits

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

LEGAL DIVISION

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING:

Conflict of Interest Disqualification Proper Use of Campaign Funds

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

File a Complaint under the Political Reform Act

complaint@fppc.ca.gov

(866) ASK-FPPC (press 1)

STATE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD:

STATEWIDE AUTOMATED INFORMATION

(800) 852-5711

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING:

(800) 338-0505

Committee Tax Status

<https://www.ftb.ca.gov>

Tax Deductible Contributions

Charitable Non-Profit Groups

Any Other Tax Related Questions

SECRETARY OF STATE

Committee Identification Number

(916) 657-2166

Termination of Committee

<https://www.sos.ca.gov>

FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING:

(800) 424-9530

Federal Campaign Disclosure Requirements

<https://www.fec.gov>

Contributions from National Banks, National

Corporations, Foreign Nationals

REFERENCE

Government Code
Elections Code
Santa Monica Charter
Santa Monica Municipal Code

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BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE:

Section 11.04.121 – Ballot designations, states:

(a) In determining whether to accept a proposed ballot designation, the City Clerk shall utilize the Secretary of State Ballot Designation Regulations set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Administrative Code, as modified from time to time. To the extent this Chapter conflicts with the Secretary of State Ballot Designation Regulations, the provisions of this Chapter shall prevail.

(b) To facilitate review of a candidate's proposed ballot designation by the City Clerk, each candidate must submit, at the time of filing his or her proposed ballot designation on the Declaration of candidacy, a completed ballot designation worksheet on a form provided by the City Clerk. In addition to the information provided in the worksheet, the City Clerk may ask a candidate to provide additional information. The City Clerk must notify the candidate in the most expeditious manner of any rejection of a ballot designation within three working days of the candidate's submission. If the City Clerk rejects the ballot designation, the candidate shall have three additional working days to submit an alternate designation, together with a completed ballot designation worksheet.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

SECRETARY OF STATE:

California Code. Title 2. Administration Chapter 7. Ballot Designations

§ 20710. General Provisions.

- (a) The regulatory purpose of this Chapter is to ensure the accurate designation of the candidate upon the ballot in order that an informed electorate may intelligently elect one of the candidates.
- (b) The Secretary of State shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of Elections Code § 13107 and the regulations included in this Chapter in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of this Chapter.
- (c) Candidates are not required to use a ballot designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a), and may opt to leave the space for such a designation on the ballot blank. In order to notify the elections official as to whether he or she will use a ballot designation or will opt to leave the ballot designation space blank, the candidate must initial the appropriate box on the Declaration of Candidacy or otherwise so indicate on the Declaration of Candidacy.
- (d) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a), a candidate may submit a proposed ballot designation pursuant to any one of the four provisions specified in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a), subparts (1) through (4), applicable to that candidate. The candidate shall be free to select from which of the applicable four subparts he or she is submitting his or her proposed ballot designation.
- (e) The regulations set forth in this Chapter shall apply only to elections held for offices for which elections returns are certified by the Secretary of State of the State of California.
- (f) Whenever, the word “should” is used in this Chapter, it is recommended, not mandatory.

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

§ 20712. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(1).

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1), shall be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) In the case of candidates holding elective city, county, district, state, or federal office, the candidate's ballot designation shall be the elective office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents.
- (b)

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (b) In the case of judicial officers, the candidate's ballot designation shall be the elective office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents.
- (c) There shall be no word count limitation applicable to ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1).
- (d) Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership or leadership in another elected body, such as "Majority Leader of the California Senate," "Minority Leader of the California State Assembly," "Speaker of the California State Assembly," "President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate," "City of Orange Mayor Pro Tem," and the like, are not elective offices described in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1). Such ballot designations are improper, pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1). They may, however, subject to the three-word limit, be considered under the provisions of § 13107(a)(3). Examples of acceptable ballot designations under this section include, but are not limited to, "Assembly Minority Leader," "California Assembly Speaker," and "Mayor Pro Tem."
- (e) Proposed ballot designations indicating that the candidate is a member of the state or county central committee of a political party, or an officer of a state or county central committee of a political party, are improper, as such positions do not constitute elective county or state offices as specified in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(1).

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code.

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code.

§ 20713. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(2).

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2), shall be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) A proposed ballot designation submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2), is limited "incumbent," as that term is defined in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2).
- (c) The term "incumbent" must be used as a noun. It shall not be used in conjunction with any other words, including any accompanying adjectives or modifiers, and must stand alone. A candidate qualified to use this designation pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2), shall be entitled to use the ballot designation "Incumbent."
- (d) The word "incumbent" is strictly limited for use in ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(2), and may not be used as an adjective in any other ballot designation.

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

§ 20714. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(3).

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), shall be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) The terms "profession," "vocation," or "occupation," as those terms are used in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), are defined as follows:
- (1) "Profession" means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring knowledge of a particular discipline. The labor and skill involved in a profession is predominantly mental or intellectual, rather than physical or manual. Recognized professions generally include, but are not limited to, law, medicine, education, engineering, accountancy, and journalism. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "profession," as defined in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), include, but are not limited to, "attorney," "physician," "accountant," "architect," and "teacher."
 - (2) "Vocation" means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all cases, relies for his or her livelihood and spends a major portion of his or her time. As defined, vocations may include, but are not limited to, religious ministry, child rearing, homemaking, elderly and dependent care, and engaging in trades such as carpentry, cabinetmaking, plumbing, and the like. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "vocation," as defined in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), include, but are not limited to, "minister," "priest," "mother," "father," "homemaker," "dependent care provider," "carpenter," "plumber," "electrician," and "cabinetmaker."
 - (3) "Occupation" means the employment in which one regularly engages or follows as the means of making a livelihood. Examples of an acceptable designation of an "occupation," as defined in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), include, but are not limited to, "rancher," "restaurateur," "retail salesperson," "manual laborer," "construction worker," "computer manufacturing executive," "military pilot," "secretary," and "police officer."
- (b) "Principal," as that term is used in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), means a substantial involvement of time and effort such that the activity is one of the primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavors of the candidate. The term "principal" precludes any activity which does not entail a significant involvement on the part of the candidate. Involvement which is only nominal, pro forma, or titular in character does not meet the requirements of the statute.

- (1) If a candidate is licensed by the State of California to engage in a profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate is entitled to consider it one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate has maintained his or her license current as of the date he or she filed his or nomination documents by complying with all applicable requirements of the respective licensure, including the payment of all applicable license fees and (ii) the status of the candidate's license is active at the time he or she filed his or her nomination documents.
 - (2) A candidate who holds a professional, vocational or occupational license issued by the State of California may not claim such profession, vocation or occupation as one of his or her "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate's licensure status is "inactive" at the time the candidate files his or her nomination document, or (ii) the candidate's license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files his or her nomination documents.
- (c) In order for a ballot designation submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), to be deemed acceptable by the Secretary of State, it must accurately state the candidate's principal professions, vocations or occupations, as those terms are defined in subdivisions (a) and (b) herein. Each proposed principal profession, vocation or occupation submitted by the candidate must be factually accurate, descriptive of the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation, must be neither confusing nor misleading, and must be in full and complete compliance with Elections Code § 13107 and the regulations in this Chapter.
- (d) If the candidate is engaged in a profession, vocation or occupation at the time he or she files his or her nomination documents, the candidate's proposed ballot designation is entitled to consist of the candidate's current principal professions, vocations and occupations. In the event the candidate does not have a current principal profession, vocation or occupation at the time he or she files his or her nomination documents, the candidate may use a ballot designation consisting of his or her principal professions, vocations or occupations, which the candidate was principally engaged in during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of the candidate's nomination papers.
- (e) A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. Accordingly, the candidate may designate multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. If a candidate proposes a ballot designation including multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations, the proposed ballot designation must comply with the following provisions:
 - (1) The proposed ballot designation must comply with the three-word limitation specified in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), and as implemented pursuant to subdivision (f) herein.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (2) Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation shall be separately considered by the Secretary of State and must independently qualify as a "principal" profession, vocation or occupation, as that term is defined pursuant to subdivision (b) herein.
- (3) When multiple professions, vocations or occupations are proposed as a ballot designation, they shall be separated by a slash ("/"). An example of an acceptable designation would be "Legislator/Rancher/Physician."
- (f) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3), the candidate's ballot designation shall be limited to not more than three (3) words. The following rules shall govern the application of the three-word limitation:
 - (1) The proposed ballot designation shall be grammatically correct, generic, and all words must be spelled correctly.
 - (2) Punctuation shall be limited to the use of a comma (e.g., District Attorney, Los Angeles County) and a slash (e.g., Legislator/Rancher/Physician), pursuant to subdivision (e) of this section. A hyphen may be used if, and only if, the use of a hyphen is called for in the spelling of a word as it appears in a standard reference dictionary of the English language, which was published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted.
 - (3) All California geographical names shall be considered to be one word and shall be limited to the names of cities, counties and states. The names of special districts and political subdivisions are not "geographical names," as that term is used in Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3). If the candidate desires, the geographical name may be used in the form of "City of . . .," "County of . . .," or "City and County of . . ." Examples of geographical names considered to be one word include Tehama County, Los Angeles County and County of Sacramento. Examples of designations containing a special district or political subdivision that are not geographical names include "Butte County Rural Fire District Captain," "Huntington Beach Unified School District President," and "South Bay Irrigation District Director."
 - (4) An acronym shall be counted as one word.
- (g) A candidate who chooses to include the name of his or her elective office with another profession, vocation, or occupation may do so pursuant to Elections Code section 13107(a)(3), but that ballot designation shall be limited to no more than three words. Examples of acceptable designations under this section include "State Senator/Rancher," "California Assemblywoman/Attorney," "County Supervisor/Teacher," and "State Controller/Businessman." Examples of unacceptable designations under this section include "Assemblyman, 57th District/Educator," "California State Senator/Architect," "Placer County Supervisor/Business Owner," and "Member, Board of Equalization/Banker."

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code.
Reference: Sections 9, 13107, Elections Code.

§ 20714.5. "Community Volunteer."

- (a) "Community Volunteer" means a person who engages in an activity or performs a service for or on behalf of, without profiting monetarily, one or more of the following:
 - (1) A charitable, educational, or religious organization as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3);
 - (2) A governmental agency; or
 - (3) An educational institution.
- (b) The activity or service must constitute substantial involvement of the candidate's time and effort such that the activity or service is the sole, primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavor of the candidate within the meaning of subdivisions (a) and (b) of section 20714 of this Chapter.

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code; Section 13107.5(b), Elections Code.

Reference: Sections 13107 and 13107.5, Elections Code; Section 501(c)(3), United States Internal Revenue Code.

§ 20715. Proposed Ballot Designations Submitted Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, Subdivision (a)(4).

- (a) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4), a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the phrase "appointed incumbent" if the candidate holds an office, other than a judicial office, by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office. The candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed."
- (b) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4), a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the word "appointed" in conjunction with the elective office, if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office. The candidate may not use any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed."
- (c) There shall be no word count limitation applicable to ballot designations submitted pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(4).

Note: Authority: Section 12172.5, Government Code

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code

§ 20716. Unacceptable Ballot Designations.

- (a) The Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which fails to comply with Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a); is prohibited pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b); is misleading; or is otherwise improper pursuant to the regulations set forth in this Chapter.
- (b) The following types of activities are distinguished from professions, vocations and occupations and are not acceptable as ballot designations pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (a)(3):

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (1) Avocations: An avocation is a casual or occasional activity, diversion or hobby pursued principally for enjoyment and in addition to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation. Avocations may include, but are not limited to, hobbies, social activities, volunteer work (except as set forth in Section 20714.5 of this Chapter), and matters pursued as an amateur.
 - (2) Pro Forma Professions, Vocations and Occupations: Pro forma professions, vocations or occupations are positions held by the candidate which consume little or none of the candidate's time and which, by their nature, are voluntary or for which the candidate is not compensated, except as set forth in Section 20714.5 of this Chapter. Pro forma professions, vocations and occupations may include, but are not limited to, such pursuits as honorary peace officer, honorary chairperson, honorary professor, goodwill ambassador, official host or hostess and the like.
 - (3) Statuses: A status is a state, condition, social position or legal relation of the candidate to another person, persons or the community as a whole. A status is generic in nature and generally fails to identify with any particular specificity the manner by which the candidate earns his or her livelihood or spends the substantial majority of his or her time. Examples of a status include, but are not limited to, veteran, proponent, reformer, scholar, founder, philosopher, philanthropist, activist, patriot, taxpayer, concerned citizen, husband, wife, and the like.
- (c) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(1), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would mislead voters. In making this determination, the Secretary of State shall determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonably prudent voter would be misled as to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation by the candidate's proposed ballot designation. The determination shall take into account the plain meaning of the words constituting the proposed ballot designation and the factual accuracy of the proposed ballot designation based upon supporting documents or other evidence submitted by the candidate in support of the proposed ballot designation, pursuant to §§ 20711 and 20717 of this Chapter.
- (d) A ballot designation may not comprise or include commercial identification information, such as a trademark, service mark, trade name, or the specific name of a business, partnership, corporation, company, foundation, or organization. Examples of an improper use of commercial identification information include, but are not limited to, "Acme Company President," "Universal Widget Inventor," "Director, Smith Foundation," "UCLA Professor," and the like.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (e) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(2), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would suggest an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications, honesty, integrity, leadership abilities or character. Any laudatory or derogatory adjectives which would suggest an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications shall not be permitted. Such impermissible adjectives include, but are not limited to, "senior," "emeritus," "specialist," "magnate," "outstanding," "leading," "expert," "virtuous," "eminent," "best," "exalted," "prominent," "famous," "respected," "honored," "honest," "dishonest," "corrupt," "lazy," and the like.
- (f) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(3), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies. Examples of impermissible designations include "Ret. Army General," "Major USAF, Retired" and "City Attorney, Retired."
- (g) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(4), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or prefix to indicate a prior profession, vocation, occupation or elected, appointed or judicial office previously held by the candidate. Such impermissible words or prefixes include, but are not limited to, "Ex-," "former," "past," and "erstwhile." Examples of impermissible designations include "Former Congressman," "Ex-Senator," and "Former Educator."
- (h) (1) Subject to the provisions of Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(4), use of the word "retired" in a ballot designation is generally limited for use by individuals who have permanently given up their chosen principal profession, vocation or occupation.
(2) In evaluating a proposed ballot designation including the word "retired," the Secretary of State will consider the following factors in making a determination as to the propriety of the use of the term "retired":
 - (A) Prior to retiring from his or her principal profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate worked in such profession, vocation or occupation for more than 5 years;
 - (B) The candidate is collecting, or eligible to collect, retirement benefits or other type of vested pension;
 - (C) The candidate has reached at least the age of 55 years;
 - (D) The candidate voluntarily left his or her last professional, vocational or occupational position; and,
 - (E) The candidate's retirement benefits are providing him or her with a principal source of income.
- (3) If a candidate is requesting a ballot designation that he or she is a retired public official, the candidate must have previously voluntarily retired from public office, not have been involuntarily removed from office, not have been recalled by voters, and not have surrendered the office to seek another office or failed to win reelection to the office. If such a candidate did not voluntarily retire from public office, he or she may not use the word "retired" in his or her ballot designation.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (4) A candidate may not use the word "retired" in his or her ballot designation if that candidate possesses another more recent, intervening principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- (i) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(5), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for recognized ballot status.
- (j) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(6), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
 - (1) The Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any ballot designation which expressly contains or implies any ethnic or racial slurs or ethnically or racially derogatory language.
 - (2) If the candidate is a member of the clergy, the candidate may not make reference to his or her specific denomination. However, the candidate may use his or her clerical title as a ballot designation (e.g., "Rabbi," "Pastor," "Minister," "Priest," "Bishop," "Deacon," "Monk," "Nun," "Imam," etc.)
- (k) Pursuant to Elections Code § 13107, subdivision (b)(7), the Secretary of State shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which refers to any activity prohibited by law. Unlawful activity includes any activities, conduct, professions, vocations, or occupations prohibited by state or federal law.

Note: Authority cited: Section 12172.5, Government Code.

Reference: Section 13107, Elections Code.

§ 20717. Requests for Supporting Documentation.

In addition to the Ballot Designation Worksheet required to be filed with the Secretary of State pursuant to Elections Code § 13107.3 and § 20711 of this Chapter, the Secretary of State may request that a candidate submit additional supporting documentation or other evidence to support the proposed ballot designation.

- (a) Time is of the essence regarding all matters pertaining to the review of proposed ballot designations submitted by candidates for public office. Failure to promptly submit requested supporting materials will preclude consideration of such materials in the rendering of a final decision on the candidate's proposed ballot designation.
- (b) The Secretary of State will communicate, whenever possible, with the candidate in the most expeditious manner, including, but not limited to, telephone, facsimile transmission and electronic mail at the number or address provided by the candidate. When the candidate does not have reasonable access to a facsimile machine or electronic mail, the Secretary of State will transmit written communication to the candidate by means of overnight express delivery to the address provided by the candidate.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REGULATIONS – *continued*

- (c) The candidate shall have the burden of establishing that the proposed ballot designation that he or she has submitted is accurate and complies with all provisions of Elections Code § 13107 and this Chapter.

§ 20718. Communication of Decisions Regarding Ballot Designations.

- (a) If a candidate's proposed ballot designation has been rejected, an official copy of the decision of the Secretary of State will be made in writing and transmitted directly to the candidate by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided by the candidate. The Secretary of State shall also provide a copy to the elections official in the candidate's county of residence and to the elections official of each county within the political subdivision. Copies may also be made available to all other candidates in the race.
- (b) At the request of the candidate, the Secretary of State will transmit a copy of the decision of the Secretary of State regarding the candidate's proposed ballot designation by facsimile transmission or email to the facsimile number or email address listed on the candidate's Ballot Designation Worksheet.
- (c) All written decisions of the Secretary of State regarding ballot designations are public records and are available for inspection and copying at the public counter of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, 1500 11th Street, Fifth Floor, Sacramento, California 95814.

§ 20719. Service of Legal Process Regarding Ballot Designations.

- (a) In the event a candidate or other interested party files a petition for the issuance of an extraordinary writ with the court or other legal action pertaining to a candidate's ballot designation, the summons and any other legal process should be served upon the Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State, 1500 11th Street, Sixth Floor, Sacramento, California 95814. The Chief Counsel may designate a Deputy Secretary of State to accept service of process on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- (b) Telephone notice pertaining to any ex parte applications filed with the court by any candidate or other interested party should be directed to the attention of the Chief Counsel to the Secretary of State at (916) 653-7244. Counsel for all parties to such ex parte matters are admonished that waivers of the Secretary of State's right to timely notice and the right to personally appear at the ex parte hearing will be granted in writing and only in limited instances.
- (c) The Secretary of State shall provide a copy of any legal actions in subdivision (a) or (b) above to the elections official in the county of the candidate's residence and any other county in the district.
- (d) The Secretary of State shall be named as a respondent in any legal action pertaining to a ballot designation for a candidate described in Elections Code § 15375, except for a candidate for judge of the superior court.

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

11.04.020 Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the City of Santa Monica Campaign and Election Reform Act of 1992.

11.04.030 Findings and purpose.

- (a) Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in the American political process, but the financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not permit them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence on the election of candidates.
- (b) The rapidly increasing costs of political campaigns have forced many candidates to raise larger and larger percentages of money from interest groups with a specific financial stake in matters before City governmental bodies. This has caused the public perception that votes are being improperly influenced by monetary contributions. This perception is undermining the credibility and integrity of the governmental process.
- (c) Officeholders are responding to high campaign costs by raising ever-increasing amounts of money. This fundraising distracts public officeholders from important public matters and encourages contributions which may have the appearance of a corrupting influence.
- (d) High campaign costs discourage community members from running for public office because newcomers to the political process may lack access to the financial resources necessary to wage effective campaigns.
- (e) Limiting campaign contributions helps ensure equal opportunities for all candidates, promotes diversity among candidates and strengthens the community's trust that their government is representative.
- (f) Limiting contributions to candidates and committees, to the full extent allowed by law, helps promote participation in government and trust that the democratic process is not subverted by affluent special interest groups.
- (g) Powerful special interests in Santa Monica have, in past elections, sought to use their wealth to dominate election results.
- (h) Santa Monica can best preserve its sense of community, safeguard its local democracy, and effectuate its commitment to fair public process by limiting all campaign contributions.
- (i) By enacting this Chapter, the City Council seeks: to ensure that individuals and interest groups in our society have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the elective and governmental processes; to reduce the influence of large contributors with a specific financial stake in matters before City governmental bodies; to curtail overall expenditures in campaigns; to reduce the excessive fundraising advantage of incumbents and thus encourage competition for elective office; to improve the disclosure of contribution sources in reasonable and effective ways; and to help restore public trust in governmental and electoral institutions.

11.04.040 Definitions.

Unless a word or phrase is specifically defined in this Chapter, the definitions set forth in the Fair Political Practices Act, Government Code Sections 82000 et seq. shall apply to this Chapter. The following words or phrases as used in this Chapter shall have the meanings set forth below.

Candidate. Any individual who has qualified to be listed on a ballot or who has solicited write-in votes on his or her behalf for election to the Santa Monica City Council, Santa Monica Rent Control Board or any other elected office of the City of Santa Monica, or who receives a contribution or makes an expenditure or gives consent for any other person to receive a contribution or to make an expenditure with a view to bringing about such person's election to such office, whether or not the specific elective office for which such person will seek election is known at the time the contribution is received or the expenditure is made, and whether or not such person has announced candidacy or filed a declaration of candidacy at such time. "Candidate" also includes any office holder who is subject of a recall petition.

Controlled Committee. As defined in [Government Code](#) Section 82016, a committee that is controlled directly or indirectly by a candidate or State measure proponent or that acts jointly with a candidate, controlled committee, or State measure proponent in connection with the making of expenditures. A candidate or State measure proponent controls a committee if he or she, his or her agent, or any other committee he or she controls has a significant influence on the actions or decisions of the committee.

Election. Any general or special election held to elect or remove a member of the Santa Monica City Council, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board or any other elected office of the City of Santa Monica.

Electronic Filing. The submission of required reports and statements in an electronic format approved by the Secretary of State and the City Clerk.

Organization. Any corporation, association, partnership, committee, labor organization, political party or other similar legal entity or arrangement, whether organized for profit or not.

Person. A natural born individual, as well as any organization.

Small Contributor Political Action Committee. "Small contributor political action committee" means any committee which meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) All of the contributions it receives from any person in a twelve-month period total fifty dollars or less.
- (2) It has been in existence at least six months.
- (3) It contributes to at least five candidates within a three (3) year period.
- (4) It is not a candidate controlled committee.
- (5) It receives contributions from more than one hundred persons.

11.04.050 Limitations on contributions from persons.

- (a) No person shall make to any candidate for office or to the controlled committee of such a candidate, a contribution or contributions totaling more than one thousand two hundred dollars for each election in which the candidate was on, is on, or is likely to be on the ballot or in which the candidate sought or seeks write-in votes.
- (b) No candidate for office or the controlled committee of such a candidate shall accept from any person a contribution or contributions totaling more than one thousand two hundred dollars for each election.
- (c) The amounts in this Section shall be adjusted every February (or as soon thereafter as practicable) of each odd numbered year commencing in 2027 for any increase in the consumer price index for the preceding calendar year (January – December) for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U (LA-R-OC CPI-U) as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics rounded to the nearest ten dollars. In the event the Bureau of Labor Statistics discontinues the publication of the LA-R-OC CPI-U, then a comparable statistic shall be used as determined by the City's Chief Financial Officer. The City Clerk, no later than thirty days after the LA-R-OC CPI-U (or comparable statistic) is published, shall issue a public notice establishing the amounts as adjusted in accordance with this subsection.
- (d) This Section shall not be interpreted or applied to violate the right of association or the right to express views through expenditures. Rather, it is intended to be and shall be applied solely as a limit on campaign contributions to individuals and committees.

11.04.060 Return of contributions.

A contribution shall not be considered to be received if it is not negotiated, deposited or utilized in any way, and in addition if it is returned to the donor within ten days of receipt.

11.04.070 Aggregation of payments.

- (a) All contributions made by a person or small contributor political action committee whose contributions or expenditure activity is financed, directed or controlled by any corporation, partnership, committee, labor organization, association, political party or any other person or committee, including any parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department or local unit of the corporation, labor organization, partnership, committee, association, political party or any other person, or by any group of such persons, shall be considered to be made by the person, organization or entity financing, directing or controlling the contribution as well as the person, small contributor or political action committee making the contribution.
- (b) Two or more entities shall be regarded as the same person or small contributor political action committee when any of the following apply:
 - (1) The entities share the majority of members of their boards of directors;
 - (2) The entities share two or more officers;
 - (3) The entities are owned or controlled by the same majority shareholder or shareholders;

- (4) The entities are in a parent-subsidiary relationship.
- (c) An individual and any general partnership in which the individual is a partner, or an individual and any corporation in which the individual owns a controlling interest, shall be regarded as the same person.
- (d) No committee which supports or opposes a candidate for office shall have as officers, individuals who serve as officers on any other committee which supports or opposes the same candidate. No such committee shall act in concert with, or solicit or make contributions on behalf of, any other committee. This subsection shall not apply to treasurers of committees if these treasurers do not participate in or control in any way a decision on whether the candidate or candidates receive contribution.

11.04.080 Loans.

- (a) A loan shall be considered a contribution from the maker as well as the guarantor, if any, of the loan and shall be subject to the contribution limitations of this Chapter.
- (b) Every loan to a candidate or committee shall be by written agreement and shall be filed with the candidate's or committee's campaign statement on which the loan is first reported.
- (c) A loan made to a candidate or committee by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on the same terms available to members of the public shall not be subject to the contribution limitations of this Chapter.
- (d) Extensions of credit, other than loans pursuant to subsection (c) of this Section, for a period of more than thirty (30) days are subject to the contribution limitations of this Chapter.

11.04.090 Family contributions.

- (a) Contributions by spouses shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated under this Chapter.
- (b) Contributions by minors shall be treated as contributions by their parents or guardian and attributed equally to each parent or guardian

CALIFORNIA STATE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

17538.41.

- (a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), (c), (d), or (e), no person, entity conducting business, candidate, or political committee in this state shall transmit, or cause to be transmitted, a text message advertisement to a mobile telephony services handset, pager, or two-way messaging device that is equipped with short message capability or any similar capability allowing the transmission of text messages. A text message advertisement is a message, the principal purpose of which is to promote the sale of goods or services, or to promote a political purpose or objective, to the recipient, and consisting of advertising material for the lease, sale, rental, gift offer, or other disposition of any realty, goods, services, or extension of credit, or advertising material for political purposes.
- (2) This section shall apply when a text message advertisement is transmitted to a number assigned for mobile telephony service, pager service, or two-way messaging service to a California resident.
- (b) This section shall apply when text messages transmitted at the direction of a person or entity offering mobile telephony service, pager service, or two-way messaging service if the subscriber is offered an option to not receive those text messages.
- (c) This section shall not apply to text messages transmitted by a business, candidate, or political committee that has an existing relationship with the subscriber if the subscriber is offered an option not to receive text messages from that business, candidate, or political committee.
- (d) This section shall not apply to text messages transmitted by an affiliate of a business that has an existing relationship with the subscriber, but only if the subscriber has provided consent to the business with which he or she has that relationship to receive text messages from affiliates of that business. "Affiliate" means any company that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, another company.
- (e) This section shall not apply to electronic mail messages that are forwarded, without the knowledge of the sender, to a mobile telephony services handset, pager, or two-way messaging device.
- (f) Subdivision (a) shall not impose an obligation on a person or entity offering mobile telephony service, pager service, or two-way messaging service to control the transmission of a text message unless the message is transmitted at the direction of that person or entity.
- (g) For purposes of this section, "mobile telephony service" means commercially available interconnected mobile phone services that provide access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) via mobile communication devices employing radiowave technology to transmit calls, including cellular radiotelephone, broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS), and digital Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR).

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

11.04.176 Candidate Information Sheet

- (a) In order to ensure that any person considering signing a nomination petition has information about the nomination process sufficient to exercise his or her rights in an informed manner, the City Clerk and City Attorney shall prepare a Candidate Information Sheet to accompany each petition for candidacy for a City office.
- (b) Each Candidate Information Sheet shall include at least the following: (1) the nomination process; (2) the requirements for candidacy; and (3) information about how to withdraw a signature.
- (c) Each person gathering signatures shall provide a copy of the Candidate Information Sheet to every signer of the petition. In addition, each person gathering signatures shall make copies of the Candidate Information Sheet readily available to prospective signers either by offering copies orally or by displaying them prominently in the same location where the signatures are being gathered so that signers may readily see and take them.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

13307. Preparation and form of candidate statement.

- (a)(1) Each candidate for nonpartisan elective office in any local agency, including any city, county, city and county, or district, may prepare a candidate's statement on an appropriate form provided by the elections official. The statement may include the name, age, and occupation of the candidate and a brief description, of no more than 200 words, of the candidate's own education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. However, the governing body of the local agency may authorize an increase in the limitations on words for the statement from 200 to 400 words. The statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.
- (2) The statement authorized by this subdivision shall be filed in the office of the elections official when the candidate's nomination papers are returned for filing, if it is for a primary election, or for an election for offices for which there is no primary. The statement shall be filed in the office of the elections official no later than the 88th day before the election, if it is for an election for which nomination papers are not required to be filed. If a runoff election or general election occurs within 88 days of the primary or first election, the statement shall be filed with the elections official by the third day following the governing body's declaration of the results from the primary or first election.
- (3) Except as provided in Section 13309, the statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period.
- (b)(1) The elections official shall send to each voter a county voter information guide that contains the written statements of each candidate that is prepared pursuant to subdivision (a). The statement of each candidate shall be printed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing.
- (2) The elections official shall provide a Spanish translation to those candidates who wish to have one, and shall select a person to provide that translation who is one of the following:
- (A) A certified and registered interpreter on the Judicial Council Master List.
 - (B) An interpreter categorized as "certified" or "professionally qualified" by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
 - (C) From an institution accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education.
 - (D) A current voting member in good standing of the American Translators Association.
 - (E) A current member in good standing of the American Association of Language Specialists.
- (c)(1) In addition to the statement prepared pursuant to subdivision (a), if the elections official who is conducting the election or the county elections official who is conducting a local agency's election, including a local election that is consolidated with the county election, permits electronic distribution of a candidate's statement, each candidate for nonpartisan elective office in the local agency may prepare a candidate's statement for the purpose of

electronic distribution pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) A statement prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be posted on the website of the elections official, and may be included in a voter's pamphlet that is electronically distributed by the elections official pursuant to Section 13300.7, but shall not be included in a voter's pamphlet that is printed and mailed to voters pursuant to subdivision (b).

(3) A statement that is printed in the voter's pamphlet and mailed to voters pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be included with the statement that is prepared and electronically distributed pursuant to this subdivision.

(4) A statement that is prepared and electronically distributed pursuant to this subdivision shall be displayed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing.

(5) The elections official shall provide a Spanish translation to those candidates who wish to have one, and shall select a person to provide that translation who is one of the persons listed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b).

(d) The local agency may estimate the total cost of printing, handling, translating, mailing, and electronically distributing candidate's statements filed pursuant to this section, including costs incurred as a result of complying with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The local agency may require each candidate filing a statement to pay in advance to the local agency the candidate's estimated pro rata share as a condition of having the candidate's statement included in the county voter information guide or electronically distributed. In the event the estimated payment is required, the receipt for the payment shall include a written notice that the estimate is just an approximation of the actual cost that varies from one election to another election and may be significantly more or less than the estimate, depending on the actual number of candidates filing statements. Accordingly, the local agency is not bound by the estimate and may, on a pro rata basis, bill the candidate for additional actual expense or refund any excess paid depending on the final actual cost. In the event of underpayment, the local agency may require the candidate to pay the balance of the cost incurred. In the event of overpayment, the local agency that, or the elections official who, collected the estimated cost shall prorate the excess amount among the candidates and refund the excess amount paid within 30 days of the election.

(e) This section shall not be deemed to make any statement, or the authors of any statement, free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false, slanderous, or libelous statements offered for printing electronic distribution pursuant to this section or contained in the county voter information guide.

(f) Before the nominating period opens, the local agency for that election shall determine whether a charge shall be levied against that candidate for the candidate's statement sent to each voter and, if authorized pursuant to subdivision (c), for the electronically distributed candidate's statement. This decision shall not be revoked or modified after the seventh day before the opening of the nominating period. A written statement of the regulations with respect to charges for handling, packaging, mailing, and electronic distribution shall be provided to each candidate or each candidate's representative, at the time they pick up the

nomination papers.

(g) For purposes of this section and Section 13310, the board of supervisors is the governing body of judicial elections.

13308. Candidate's Statement May Make No Reference to Another Candidate.

In addition to the restrictions set forth in Section 13307, any candidate's statement submitted pursuant to Section 13307 shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications, and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The elections official shall not cause to be printed, posted on an Internet Web site, or circulated any statement that the elections official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited by this section.

13309. Alleges to be indigent; procedures.

- (a) Notwithstanding Section 13307, if a candidate alleges to be indigent and unable to pay in advance the requisite fee for submitting a candidate statement, the candidate shall submit to the local agency a statement of financial worth to be used in determining whether or not he or she is eligible to submit a candidate statement without payment of the fee in advance.
- (b) The statement of financial worth required by this section shall be submitted by the candidate together with his or her candidate statement in accordance with the deadline specified in Section 13307. The statement of financial worth form shall be furnished by the local agency, and may include questions relating to the candidate's employer, income, real estate holdings, tangible personal property, and financial obligations. The candidate shall certify the content of the statement as to its truth and correctness under penalty of perjury. The candidate shall also sign a release form of the candidate's most recent federal income tax report.
- (c) Upon receipt of a statement of financial worth, a determination shall be made by the local agency of whether or not the candidate is indigent. The local agency shall notify the candidate of its findings.
- (d) If it is determined that the candidate is not indigent, the candidate shall, within three days of the notification, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, withdraw the statement or pay the requisite fee. If the candidate fails to respond within the time prescribed, the local agency shall not be obligated to print and mail the statement.
- (e) If the local agency determines that the candidate is indigent, the local agency shall print and mail the statement.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the local agency from billing the candidate his or her actual pro rata share of the cost after the election.

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.120 – Candidate’s statement of qualifications:

- (a) Each candidate for Santa Monica City Council, Santa Monica Rent Control Board, or other elected office of the City of Santa Monica, may prepare a statement of qualification on an appropriate form provided by the City Clerk. Such statement may include the name, age and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of no more than two hundred words of the candidate’s education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. The statement may make no reference to another candidate. The Statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations. Such statement shall be filed in the City Clerk’s Office when the candidate’s nomination papers are returned for filing. It may be withdrawn but not changed during the period for filing nomination papers and until five p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. No candidate will be permitted to include additional materials in the voter’s pamphlet.
- (b) The City Clerk shall send to each voter, together with a sample ballot, a voter’s pamphlet which contains the written statements of each candidate’s qualifications that is prepared pursuant to this Section. The statement of each candidate shall be printed in type of uniform size and darkness and with uniform spacing.
- (c) The City Clerk shall provide a Spanish translation to those candidates who wish to have one, and shall select a person to provide that translation who is a professionally-certified translator as required by State law.
- (d) If a candidate files a statement, then the estimated costs of printing, handling, translating, mailing and electronic distribution of any statement submitted pursuant to this section shall be paid by the candidate at the time of filing nomination papers for elections occurring in or after November 2024. In the event of overpayment and pending the final actual cost, the City shall prorate the excess amount among the candidates and refund the excess amount paid within thirty days of the election. In the event of underpayment, the City shall pay the balance of the cost incurred.
- (e) The City Clerk shall reject any statement which contains any obscene, libelous or defamatory matter, which violates the constitutional or civil rights of any person, or which is prohibited by state or federal law from being circulated through the mail.
- (f) The City Clerk shall comply with all recommendations and stands set forth by the California Secretary of State regarding occupational designations and other matters relating to elections.
- (g) Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to make any such statement or the authors thereof free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false or libelous statements offered for printing or contained in the voter’s pamphlet.

ELECTION REGULATIONS

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

ARTICLE 2.10225. City candidate, extended filing period.

- (a) Notwithstanding Sections 10220 and 10224, if nomination papers for an incumbent officer of the city are not filed by or on the 88th day before the election, during normal business hours, as posted, or are filed but then are withdrawn before the close of normal business hours on the 88th day before the election, the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election during normal business hours, as posted, to nominate candidates other than the person who was the incumbent on the 88th day, for that incumbent's elective office.
- (b) This section is not applicable where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. If this section is applicable, notwithstanding Section 10224, a candidate may withdraw their nomination paper until the 83rd day before the election during normal business hours, as posted.
- (Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 355, Sec. 10 (AB1784). Effective January 1, 2025.)*

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

11.04.140 Ballot order.

In any election for any City office, the order in which a candidate's name or ballot measure shall appear on the ballot shall be randomly determined by the City Clerk.

11.04.150 Distribution of information for candidates and committees.

In order to insure that each candidate and proponent or opponent of a measure has full opportunity to understand and fulfill the requirements of the Political Reform Act and Municipal Code, the City Clerk shall make available to each candidate, to each proponent or opponent of a measure and to each committee supporting or opposing a measure the latest revision of the State of California Information Manual on Campaign Disclosure Provisions of the Political Reform Act and a schedule outlining required filing dates for campaign statements. In addition, candidates are to receive a Candidate Guide outlining basic municipal candidacy requirements.

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

4.08.480 Handbills, signs, etc.

No person, except a public officer or employee in the performance and furtherance of a public duty, shall paste, paint, print, nail, tack, or otherwise fasten any card, banner, handbill, sign, poster, advertisement, or notice of any kind, on any curbstone, lamp post, pole, hitching post, watering trough, hydrant, bridge, or tree, upon a public street, or public property, within the City, except as may be required or authorized by this Code, or required by the laws of the State, or of the United States.

(Prior code § 4231; amended by Ord. No. 2008CCS § 8, adopted 5/8/01)

4.08.490 Street banners prohibited.

No person, except a public officer or employee in the performance of a public duty, shall hang, suspend, string any card, banner, handbill, sign, poster, picture, notice, or political streamer of any kind, over, on, or in any public street, or in, over, or on any public property within the City, except as may be authorized or required by this Code or required by the laws of the State, or of the United States.

(Prior code § 4232; amended by Ord. No. 2008CCS § 4, adopted 5/8/01)

Article 9. Division 6. 9.61.220 Consent of Property Owner

No person, except a public officer or employee in the performance of a public duty, or a private person in the giving of a legal notice, shall paste, post, paint, print, nail or tack or otherwise fasten any card, banner, handbill, sign, poster, advertisement or notice of any kind upon any property, without the written consent of the owner, holder, lessee, agent or trustee thereof.

(Added by Ord. No. 2486CCS §§ 1, 2, adopted June 23, 2015; amended by Ord. No. 2652CCS § 1, adopted October 13, 2020)

CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT CODE

State, County and City Seals:

402.5. Campaign literature or mass mailings; use of reproduction or facsimiles of the Great Seal with intent to deceive voters; offense

(a) In addition to the acts prohibited by Section 402, a person who uses or allows to be used any reproduction or facsimile of the Great Seal of the State in any campaign literature or mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5, with intent to deceive the voters, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) For purposes of this section, the use of a reproduction or facsimile of a seal in a manner that creates a misleading, erroneous, or false impression that the document is authorized by a public official is evidence of intent to deceive.

(Added by Stats. 2001, c.387 (A.B.706), Sec. 1.)

34501.5. Campaign literature or mass mailings; use of reproduction or facsimiles of the seal of the city with intent to deceive voters; offense

(a) Any person who uses or allows to be used any reproduction or facsimile of the seal of the city in any campaign literature or mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5, with intent to deceive the voters, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) For purposes of this section, the use of a reproduction or facsimile of a seal in a manner that creates a misleading, erroneous, or false impression that the document is authorized by a public official is evidence of intent to deceive.

(Added by Stats. 2001, c. 387 (A.B.706), Sec. 3.)

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

18304. Use of seal in campaign literature is misdemeanor.

(a) Any person who uses or allows to be used any reproduction or facsimile of the seal of the county or the seal of a local government agency in any campaign literature or mass mailing, as defined in Section 82041.5 of the Government Code, with intent to deceive the voters, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) For purposes of this section, the use of a reproduction or facsimile of a seal in a manner that creates a misleading, erroneous, or false impression that the document is authorized by a public official is evidence of intent to deceive.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "local government agency" means a school district, special or other district, or any other board, commission, or agency of local jurisdiction.

(Added by Stats. 2003, c.380, '1.)

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

2.32.020 Use of the City Seal



City of
**Santa
Monica**

- (a) The purpose of this Section is to restrict use of the City Seal, logo, and other insignia to official City business, so the value of the Seal, logo, or insignia is not diminished and to regulate the use of those and other City symbols so the public is not misled to believe a message is supported or authorized by the City when it is not.
- (b) The City Seal and City logo are the property of the City of Santa Monica and are, and have been, established and designed to identify official City events and programs. In addition to the City Seal and City Logo, the term City insignia shall mean any other logos or emblems used by City departments or divisions, whether trademarked or not, as approved by the City Manager.
- (c) The City Clerk shall have charge of the City Seal and shall affix the City Seal to all certificates required by law, by this Code, or by ordinance of the City.
- (d) Except as provided for in this Section, no person, other than the City of Santa Monica, shall reproduce, use, give away, sell, or distribute any seal, or facsimile thereof, purporting to be or represented to be the City Seal of the City of Santa Monica.
- (e) City officers, City employees, members of the City Council, and members of City Boards and Commissions, may use stationery and printed materials with the City Seal, or facsimile thereof, while acting within the scope of their office or employment.
- (f) A recognized employee organization may use the City Seal, or facsimile thereof, or City logo or insignia, on stationery or printed materials used in the scope of its representation of City employees and on articles of clothing intended for use by City employees.
- (g) No person or campaign committee, including an elected officer of the City, shall use the City Seal, logo, or any insignia, or any design so closely resembling the same as to be apt to deceive or be reasonably mistaken for in any way the City Seal, logo, or City insignia for purposes of supporting or opposing the nomination or election of any person to any City or other public office, or for purpose of supporting or opposing any ballot measure, nor include depiction of any such City Seal, logo, or insignia on any writing distributed for purposes of influencing the action of the electorate, or any part thereof, in any election. This section shall not be applicable to writings or other items such as nametags or other accessories issued by the City of Santa Monica or the City Council as a whole pursuant to law.

- (h) A Councilmember may wear clothing officially produced by the City depicting the City Seal, logo, or insignia when appearing at City-produced or sponsored events, or other nonpartisan events, or when representing or appearing on behalf of the Council as a whole. Councilmembers may not produce their own items depicting the City Seal, logo, or insignia. A Councilmember may never wear clothing depicting the City Seal, logo, or insignia when attending a campaign event, partisan political event, or when appearing in their individual capacity.
 - (i) Because the inclusion of the depiction of City resources in a publication may be reasonably calculated to convey the false impression of sponsorship or approval by the City, no person other than the City may depict City resources on campaign materials including clothing items, accessories, and paid or unpaid political advertising, content, or materials advocating for or against the election of candidates or passage of measures, or approval or rejection of items before the City Council, without conspicuously including the disclaimer, "This publication is not sponsored or approved by the City of Santa Monica." For purpose of this section, City resources includes, but is not limited to, City Hall, the Public Safety Administration Building, the Civic Auditorium, the Santa Monica Pier and Pier Sign, Airport Terminal, City-owned busses, police cars, fire engines, or other vehicles, or other publicly-owned and prominently recognizable buildings or structures. This is in addition to any existing local, State, or Federal law concerning use of public resources for campaign purposes and campaign advertisement disclosures. This section shall not apply to the depiction of such resources in the official logos or materials of non-political 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations such as the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, the Santa Monica Conservancy, Santa Monica Firefighters Relief Fund, Santa Monica Police Officers Association Charity Fund, or other similar 501(c)(3) not-for-profits.
 - (j) Nothing in this ordinance shall prevent the City or its departments from producing and selling or giving away clothing or other merchandise with the City logo or insignia for promotional purposes.
 - (k) Each violation of the provisions of this Section shall constitute a misdemeanor. Alternatively, the Council may approve a censure resolution condemning violations by a Councilmember, and/or a civil action may also be brought by the City or any interested party before any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to all other remedies authorized by law, the court may impose a fine of up to five hundred dollars for each violation of this Chapter.
- (Prior code § 2601; amended by Ord. No. 1363CCS, adopted 3/25/86; Ord. No. 2801CCS, 2/11/2025)

84308. Campaign Disclosure, Prohibitions

(a) The definitions set forth in this subdivision shall govern the interpretation of this section.

- (1) "Party" means any person who files an application for, or is the subject of, a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use.
- (2) "Participant" means any person who is not a party but who actively supports or opposes a particular decision in a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use and who has a financial interest in the decision, as described in Article 1 (commencing with Section 87100) of Chapter 7. A person actively supports or opposes a particular decision in a proceeding if that person lobbies in person the officers or employees of the agency, testifies in person before the agency, or otherwise acts to influence officers of the agency. A person is not a "participant" under this paragraph if their financial interest in the decision results solely from an increase or decrease in membership dues.
- (3) "Agency" means an agency as defined in Section 82003 except that it does not include the courts or any agency in the judicial branch of government, the Legislature, the Board of Equalization, or constitutional officers. However, this section applies to any person who is a member of an exempted agency but is acting as a voting member of another agency.
- (4) "Officer" means any elected or appointed officer of an agency, any alternate to an elected or appointed officer of an agency, and any candidate for elective office in an agency, other than a City Attorney or County Counsel providing legal advice to the agency who does not have the authority to make a final decision in the proceeding.
- (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), "license, permit, or other entitlement for use" means all business, professional, trade, and land use licenses and permits and all other entitlements for use, including all entitlements for land use, all contracts, and all franchises.

(B) "License, permit, or other entitlement for use" does not include any of the following:

- (i) Competitively bid contracts that are required by law, agency policy, or agency rule to be awarded pursuant to a competitive process.
- (ii) Labor contracts.
- (iii) Personal employment contracts.
- (iv) Contracts valued under fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- (v) Contracts where no party receives financial compensation.
- (vi) Contracts between two or more agencies.
- (vii) The periodic review or renewal of development agreements unless there is a material modification or amendment proposed to the agreement. Non-material modifications or amendments may be approved by agency staff.

- (viii) The periodic review or renewal of competitively bid contracts unless there are material modifications or amendments proposed to the agreement that are valued at more than 10 percent of the value of the contract or fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), whichever is less. Non-material modifications or amendments may be approved by agency staff.
- (ix) Modification of or amendments to contracts that are exempt under this subparagraph, other than competitively bid contracts.
- (6) "Contribution" includes contributions to candidates and committees in federal, state, or local elections.
- (7) "Pending" in a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use means either of the following:
- (A) For an officer, when either of the following occurs:
- (i) An item involving the license, permit, or other entitlement for use is placed on the agenda for discussion or decision at a public meeting of the body of which the officer is a member.
- (ii) The officer knows a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is within the jurisdiction of the officer's agency for its decision or other action, and it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will come before the officer in the officer's decision-making capacity.
- (B) For a party or party's agent, or a participant or participant's agent, when an application is filed with an agency, or, if the proceeding process does not require an application, when the proceeding is before the agency for its decision or other action.
- (b) While a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use is pending, and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered in the proceeding, an officer of an agency shall not accept, solicit, or direct a contribution of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) from any party or a party's agent, or from any participant or a participant's agent if the officer knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest, as that term is used in Article 1 (commencing with Section 87100) of Chapter 7. This prohibition apply regardless of whether the officer accepts, solicits, or directs the contribution on the officer's own behalf, or on behalf of any other officer, or on behalf of any candidate for office or on behalf of any committee.
- (2) With respect to elected officers, paragraph (1) applies only if the elected officer or the body of which they are a member has the authority to make any decision or recommendation in the proceeding.

- (c)(1) Before rendering any decision in a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, each officer of the agency who received a contribution within the preceding 12 months in an amount of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) from a party or from any participant shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding. An officer of an agency shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use the officer's official position to influence the decision in a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use if the officer has willfully or knowingly received a contribution in an amount of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) within the preceding 12 months from a party or a party's agent, or from any participant or a participant's agent if the officer knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest in the decision, as that term is described with respect to public officials in Article 1 (commencing with Section 87100) of Chapter 7.
- (2) With respect to elected officers, paragraph (1) applies only if the elected officer or the body of which they are a member has the authority to make any decision or recommendation in the proceeding.
- (d)(1) If an officer receives a contribution that would otherwise require disqualification under this section, and returns the contribution within 30 days from the time the officer makes any decisions, or knows, or should have known, about the contribution and the proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, whichever comes last, the officer shall be permitted to participate in the proceeding.
- (2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), if an officer accepts, solicits, or directs a contribution of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) during the 12 months after the date the final decision is rendered in violation of subdivision (b), the officer may cure the violation by returning the contribution, or the portion of the contribution in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500), within 30 days of accepting, soliciting, or directing the contribution, whichever comes latest.
- (B) An officer may cure a violation as specified in subparagraph (A) only if the officer did not knowingly and willfully accept, solicit, or direct the prohibited contribution.
- (C) An officer's controlled committee, or the officer if no controlled committee exists, shall maintain records of curing any violation pursuant to this paragraph.
- (e)(1) A party to a proceeding before an agency involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use shall disclose on the record of the proceeding any contribution in an amount of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) made within the preceding 12 months before the date that any decision is rendered by the agency by the party or the party's agent.
- (2) A party to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use pending before any agency or a participant in the proceeding shall not make a contribution of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) to any officer of that agency during the proceeding and for 12 months following the date the final decision is rendered by the agency in the proceeding.
- (3) An agent to a party or participant shall not make a contribution in any amount to an officer during the time periods described in paragraph (2).

- (4) When a closed corporation is a party to, or a participant in, a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use pending before an agency, the majority shareholder is subject to the disclosure and prohibition requirements specified in this section.
- (f) This section shall not be construed to imply that any contribution subject to being reported under this title shall not be so reported.
- (g) For the purposes of this section, in determining whether a contribution has exceeded five hundred dollars (\$500), the contributions of an agent shall not be aggregated with contributions from a party or participant.
- (h)(1) A person is the "agent" of a party to, or a participant in, a pending proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use only if the person represents that party or participant for compensation and appears before or otherwise communicates with an agency for the purpose of influencing the proceeding on behalf of a party or participant.
- (2) If an individual acting as an agent is also acting as an employee or member of a law, architectural, engineering, or consulting firm, or a similar entity or corporation, both the entity or corporation and the individual are "agents."
- (3) "Agent" includes a lobbyist registered to lobby the agency and who otherwise meets the requirements of paragraph (1).
- (4) "Communicate with the agency for the purpose of influencing the proceeding" does not include either of the following:
 - (A) Preparing drawings or submissions of an architectural, engineering, or similar nature for a client to submit in a proceeding before the agency if both of the following conditions are met:
 - (i) The work is performed pursuant to the person's profession.
 - (ii) The person does not make any contact with the agency other than contact with agency staff concerning the process or evaluation of the documents prepared by the person.
 - (B) Providing technical data or analysis to an agency if the person does not otherwise engage in direct communication for the purpose of influencing the proceeding.
- (i)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.
- (2) Subdivision (g) is not severable from paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) if paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) is held invalid in a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction. If that occurs, subdivision (g) shall become inoperative on the date of that final decision.

(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 1017, Sec. 1.5. (SB 1243) Effective January 1, 2025.)

POLLING PLACE ACTIVITIES:

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

319.5. "Electioneering" definition.

(a) "Electioneering" means the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate or measure on the ballot within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b). Prohibited electioneering information or activity includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) A display of a candidate's name, likeness, or logo.
- (2) A display of a ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo.
- (3) Buttons, hats, pencils, pens, shirts, signs, or stickers containing electioneering information.
- (4) Dissemination of audible electioneering information.
- (5) Obstructing access to, loitering near, or disseminating visible or audible electioneering information at vote by mail ballot drop boxes.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

- (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, or a satellite location.
- (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

(Amended by Stats. 2025, Ch. 296, Sec. 1. (AB1249) Effective January 1, 2026.)

18370. Electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place.

(a) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, within the 100 foot limit specified in subdivision (b), do any of the following:

- (1) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.
- (2) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot.
- (3) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of the voter's qualifications except as provided in Section 14240.
- (4) Do any electioneering as defined by Section 319.5.

(b) The activities described in subdivision (a) are prohibited within 100 feet of either of the following:

- (1) The entrance to a building that contains a polling place as defined by Section 338.5, an elections official's office, or a satellite location.
- (2) An outdoor site, including a curbside voting area, at which a voter may cast or drop off a ballot.

(c) A person shall not, on election day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, do any of the following within the immediate vicinity of a voter in line to cast a ballot or drop off a ballot:

- (1) Solicit a vote.
- (2) Speak to a voter about marking the voter's ballot.
- (3) Disseminate visible or audible electioneering information.

(d) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(Amended by Stats. 2025, Ch. 296, Sec. 5. (AB1249) Effective January 1, 2026.)

POLLING PLACE ACTIVITIES - *continued*

18371. 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 he or she knows 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.

18380. Vandalism at polling places.

- (a) No person, during any election, shall do any of the following:
 - (1) Remove or destroy any of the supplies or other conveniences placed in the voting booths or compartments for the purpose of enabling the voter to prepare his or her ballot.
 - (2) Remove, tear down, or deface the cards printed for the instruction of voters.
 - (3) Remove, tear, mark or otherwise deface any voter index with the intent to falsify or prevent others from readily ascertaining the name, address, or political affiliation of any voter, or the fact that a voter has or has not voted.
 - (4) Remove, tear down, or deface the signs identifying the location of a polling place or identifying areas within 100 feet of a polling place.
- (b) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

18562.5 Misdemeanor conduct of ballot processing by observer.

- (a) A member of the public is guilty of a misdemeanor if, while observing any of the following, he or she willfully engages in any conduct set forth in subdivision (b):
 - (1) The processing of vote by mail ballots conducted pursuant to Chapter 2 commencing with Section 15100) of Division 15.
 - (2) The semifinal official canvass conducted pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 15150) of Division 15.
 - (3) The official canvass conducted pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 15300) Division 15.
 - (4) A recount conducted pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 15600) of Division 15.
- (b)
 - (1) Attempting to ascertain the identity and ballot choices of a voter, or having observed or learned the identity of a voter, attempting to ascertain the ballot choices of that voter.
 - (2) Opening a provisional or vote by mail ballot envelope containing a voted ballot in order to ascertain the voter's ballot choices.
 - (3) Making or placing a mark or device on a ballot or secrecy envelope in an attempt to ascertain the voter's ballot choices.

PRINTED LITERATURE/MASS MAILING REQUIREMENTS

SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE

11.04.110 Printed literature.

All literature that is printed by or on behalf of any person, candidate or committee, including, but not limited to, small cards and billboards, shall be identified with the name and address of the candidate or committee, or chairperson and secretary, or at least two officers of the political group or organization on whose behalf or order the same is printed. If the literature is printed on behalf of any person or group of persons who are not also a candidate or committee, the person or group of persons shall be identified. Such identification of said persons shall be printed legibly and shall be appropriate to the size and type of the literature, but in no event shall such printing be less than in six point type. Compliance with Government Code Section 84305 et seq. shall be deemed compliance with this Section.

CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT CODE

Section 16. Elections Code

A copy of Section 84305 of the Government Code shall be provided by the elections official to each candidate or his or her agent at the time of filing the declaration of candidacy and to the proponents of a local initiative or referendum at the time of filing the petitions.

84305. Mass mailings; requirements

(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the candidate's, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate's, or political party committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to Section 84504.2 unless the name, street address, and city of the committee is shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print

PRINTED LITERATURE/MASS MAILING REQUIREMENTS - *continued*

that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

- (b) If the sender of the mass mailing is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.
- (c)(1) A candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass electronic mailing unless the name of the candidate or committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing
- (2) A committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass electronic mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to Section 84502 or 84504.3 unless the name of the committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing.
- (d) If the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee shall be included in addition to the information required by subdivision (a) or (c).
- (e) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
 - (1) "Mass electronic mailing" means sending more than 200 substantially similar pieces of electronic mail within a calendar month. "Mass electronic mailing" does not include a communication that was solicited by the recipient, including, but not limited to, acknowledgments for contributions or information that the recipient communicated to the organization.
 - (2) "Sender" means the candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee who pays for the largest portion of expenditures attributable to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing which are reportable pursuant to Sections 84200 to 84216.5, inclusive.
 - (3) To "pay for" a share of the cost of a mass mailing means to make, to promise to make, or to incur an obligation to make, any payment: (A) to any person for the design, printing, postage, materials, or other costs of the mailing, including salaries, fees, or commissions, or (B) as a fee or other consideration for an endorsement or, in the case of a ballot measure, support or opposition, in the mailing.
- (f) This section does not apply to a mass mailing or mass electronic mailing that is paid for by an independent expenditure.

Section 18303. Election Code

Every person who violates Section 84305 of the Government Code relating to mass mailing is subject to the penal provisions set forth in Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 91000) of Title 9 of the Government Code.

Section 91000. Government Code

(a) Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of this title is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) In addition to other penalties provided by law, a fine of up to the greater of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or three times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed, expended, gave or received may be imposed upon conviction for each violation.

(c) Prosecution for violation of this title must be commenced within four years after the date on which the violation occurred.

Section 91001. Government Code

(a) The Attorney General is responsible for enforcing the criminal provisions of this title with respect to state agencies, lobbyists and state elections. The district attorney of any county in which a violation occurs has concurrent powers and responsibilities with the Attorney General.

(b) The civil prosecutor is primarily responsible for enforcement of the civil penalties and remedies of this title. The civil prosecutor is the commission with respect to the state or any state agency, except itself. The Attorney General is the civil prosecutor with respect to the commission. The district attorneys are the civil prosecutors with respect to any other agency. The civil prosecutor may bring any civil action under this title which could be brought by a voter or resident of the jurisdiction. Upon written authorization from a district attorney, the commission may bring any civil action under this title which could be brought by a voter or resident of the jurisdiction. Under such circumstances, Section 91007 shall not apply to the commission.

(c) Whether or not a violation is inadvertent, negligent or deliberate, and the presence or absence of good faith shall be considered in applying the remedies and sanctions of this title.

Section 18435. California Code of Regulations

(a) A "mass mailing" has been made when over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail have been sent within a calendar month.

(b) The "sender," as used in Section 84305, is:

(1) the candidate or committee who pays for the largest portion of expenditures attributable to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing which are reportable under Sections 84200 through 84216.5; or

(2) The candidate or committee who coordinates the expenditure for the mailing pursuant to Regulation 18225.7(c) with a person who pays for the mailing and the person does not qualify as a candidate or committee under Section 82013.

(c) The identification required by Section 84305 must be preceded by the words "Paid for by." These words must be presented in the same size and color as the identification required by Section 84305, and must be immediately adjacent to and above or immediately adjacent to and in front of the required identification unless otherwise specified by statute.

(d) Mass mailing disclosure requirements under Section 84305 do not apply to mailings that are advertisements under Section 84501 and sent by a committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee.

(e) A mailing of a personal nature, such as invitations, greeting cards and announcements to friends and family, sent by a person qualifying as a committee under Section 82013(b) or (c) is not a "mass mailing" for purposes of the Act if the mailing is not for a political purpose.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Sections 82041.5 and 84305, Government Code.

Section 18435.5. California Code of Regulations

(a) Section 84305.5 requires a slate mailer to identify the slate mailer organization or committee sending the slate mailer, and to designate by an asterisk (*) each candidate and each ballot measure supported or opposed in a slate mailer for which payment of \$100 or more has been received by the organization or committee (either from the candidate, ballot measure committee, or from any other person "at the behest" of a candidate or ballot measure committee as defined in Regulation 18225.7).

(b) To ensure that it is easily legible, the Notice to Voters required by Section 84305.5 shall appear with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the statement and must appear on a plain background, not superimposed over an illustration or a patterned background. Examples of a reasonable degree of color contrast that would meet the standard required by Section 84305.5 are when the disclosure is printed in black text on a white background or a similar degree of color contrast between the background and the text of the disclosure.

(c) Slate Mailers in Multiple Languages. The Notice to Voters in a slate mailer shall appear in English. In addition, if all or a significant portion of the slate mailer appears in a language other than English, the Notice to Voters must also appear in that language.

(d) Electronic Slate Mailers. In addition to applying to slate mailers sent by traditional mail, the slate mailer identification and disclosure requirements of Section 84305.5 apply to slate mailers distributed electronically. 1 (1) The "outside" of an electronic slate mailer where the name, street address, and city of the slate mailer organization or committee primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures is to be shown pursuant to Section 84305.5(a)(I) includes: (i) A clickable image or frame of an electronic slate mailer that leads to the slate mailer. (ii) The body of an email or text message that contains a clickable link or attachment to the slate mailer. (2) The electronic slate mailer to which a clickable image, clickable frame, clickable link or attachment in the body of an email, and clickable link or attachment in the body of a text message, leads must include the disclosures required by Section 84305.5(a)(I)-(5). (3) For an electronic slate mailer that is a series of static images or a video that is a sequence of images, all disclosures required by Section 84305.5 may appear on the frame preceding or following the video or series of static images, except each candidate or ballot measure that has paid to appear on the slate mailer must be designated with the asterisk (*) required by Section 84305.5(a)(4) immediately following the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure where the designation appears in the slate listing of candidates and measures. If there is no slate listing, the designation shall appear at least once in at least 8-point boldface type, immediately following the name of the candidate, or the name or number and position advocated on the ballot measure.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Section 84305.5, Government Code.

SIMULATED BALLOT REQUIREMENTS

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

20009. 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)."

} Exact
Wording

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. *(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 422, Sec. 84. (AB 2911) Effective January 1, 2017.)*

TAXPAYER PROTECTION (OAKS INITIATIVE)

SANTA MONICA CITY CHARTER

Article XXII – Taxpayer Protection

2200. Title.

This Article shall be known as the City of Santa Monica Taxpayer Protection Amendment of 2000.

2201. Findings and declarations.

- (a) The people of the City of Santa Monica ("City") find that the use or disposition of public assets are often tainted by conflicts of interest among local public officials entrusted with their management and control. Such assets, including publicly owned real property, land use decisions conferring substantial private benefits, conferral of a franchise without competition, public purchases, taxation, and financing, should be arranged strictly on the merits for the benefit of the public, and irrespective of the separate personal or financial interests of involved public officials.
- (b) The people find that public decisions to sell or lease property, to confer cable, trash hauling and other franchises, to award public construction or service contracts, or to utilize or dispose of other public assets, and to grant special land use or taxation exceptions have often been made with the expectation of, and subsequent receipt of, private benefits from those so assisted to involved public "decision makers." The people further find that the sources of such corruptive influence include gifts and honoraria, future employment offers, and anticipated campaign contributions for public officials who are either elected or who later seek elective office. The trading of special favors or advantage in the management or disposal of public assets and in the making of major public purchases compromises the political process, undermines confidence in democratic institutions, deprives meritorious prospective private buyers, lessees, and sellers of fair opportunity, and deprives the public of its rightful enjoyment and effective use of public assets.
- (c) Accordingly, the people declare that there is a compelling state interest in reducing the corruptive influence of emoluments, gifts, and prospective campaign contributions on the decisions of public officials in the management of public assets and franchises, and in the disposition of public funds. The people, who compensate public officials, expect and declare that as a condition of such public office, no gifts, promised employment, or campaign contributions shall be received from any substantial beneficiary of such a public decision for a reasonable period, as provided herein.

2202. Definitions.

- (a) As used herein, the term public benefit does not include public employment in the normal course of business for services rendered, but includes a contract, benefit, or arrangement between the City and any individual, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or other person or entity to:
- (1) provide personal services of a value in excess of \$25,000 over any 12 month period,

TAXPAYER PROTECTION (OAKS INITIATIVE) - *continued*

- (2) sell or furnish any material, supplies or equipment to the City of a value in excess of \$25,000 over any 12 month period,
 - (3) buy or sell any real property to or from the City with a value, in excess of \$25,000, or lease any real property to or from the City with a value in excess of \$25,000 over any 12 month period,
 - (4) receive an award of a franchise to conduct any business activity in a territory in which no other competitor potentially is available to provide similar and competitive services, and for which gross revenue from the business activity exceeds \$50,000 in any 12 month period,
 - (5) confer a land use variance, special use permit, or other exception to a pre-existing master plan or land use ordinance pertaining to real property where such decision has a value in excess of \$25,000,
 - (6) confer a tax abatement, exception, or benefit not generally applicable of a value in excess of \$5,000 in any 12 month period,
 - (7) receive cash or specie of a net value to the recipient in excess of \$10,000 in any 12 month period.
- (b) Those persons or entities receiving public benefits as defined in Section 2202(a)(1)-(7) shall include the individual, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or other person or entity so benefiting, and any individual or person who, during a period where such benefit is received or accrues,
- (1) has more than a ten percent (10%) equity, participation, or revenue interest in that entity, or
 - (2) who is a trustee, director, partner, or officer of that entity or of another entity that owns or controls the entity receiving the public benefit, excepting persons serving in those capacities as volunteers, without compensation, for organizations exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3), (4), or (6) of the Internal Revenues Code. However, this exception shall not apply if the organization is a political committee or controls political committees as defined by California Government Code Section 82013 or 2 U.S.C. Section 431(4) or successor provisions.
- (c) As used herein, the term personal or campaign advantage shall include:
- (1) any gift, honoraria, emolument, or personal pecuniary benefit of a value in excess of \$50;
 - (2) any employment for compensation;
 - (3) any campaign contributions for any elective office said official may pursue.
- (d) As used herein, the term public official includes any elected or appointed public official acting in an official capacity. This includes, but is not limited to: City Council members, Planning Commission members, and the City Manager and Department Heads and their designees who confer "public benefits" as defined in this section.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION (OAKS INITIATIVE) - *continued*

2203. City public official shall not receive personal or campaign advantage from those to whom they allocate public benefits.

(a) No City public official who has exercised discretion to approve and who has approved or voted to approve a public benefit as defined in Section 2202(a) may receive a personal or campaign advantage as defined in Section 2202(c) from a person as defined in Section 2202(b) and no person or entity who has received a public benefit may confer a personal or campaign advantage upon a public official who exercised discretion to confer that public benefit for a period beginning on the date the official approves or votes to approve the public benefit, and ending no later than:

- (1) two years after the expiration of the term of office that the official is serving at the time the official approves or votes to approve the public benefit;
- (2) two years after the official's departure from his or her office whether or not there is a pre-established term of office; or
- (3) six years from the date the official approves or votes to approve the public benefit; whichever is first.

(b) Section 2203(a) shall also apply to the exercise of discretion of any such public official serving in his or her official capacity through a redevelopment agency, or any other public agency, whether within or without the territorial jurisdiction of the City either as a representative or appointee of the City.

(c) No City public official who has exercised discretion to approve and who has approved or voted to approve a public benefit as defined in Section 2202(a) may receive a personal or campaign advantage as defined in Section 2202(c) from a person as defined in Section 2202(B) in any geographic location, including within and outside the geographic boundaries of Santa Monica.

(Amended by General Municipal Election, November 8, 2016, certified by Res. No. 10978CCS)

2204. Applicable public beneficiaries section. Responsibilities of City public officials and advantage recipients.

(a) City public officials shall practice due diligence to ascertain whether or not a benefit defined under Section 2202(a) has been conferred, and to monitor personal or campaign advantages enumerated under Section 2202(c) so that any such qualifying advantage received is returned forthwith, and no later than ten days after its receipt.

(b) City public officials shall provide, upon inquiry by any person, the names of all entities and persons known to them who respectively qualify as public benefit recipients under the terms of Section 2202 and 2203.

2205. Disclosure of the law.

The City shall provide any person, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or other person or entity applying or competing for any benefit enumerated in Section 2202(a) with written notice of the provisions of this Article and the future limitations it imposes. Said notice shall be incorporated into requests for "proposal," bid invitations, or other existing informational disclosure documents to persons engaged in prospective business with, from, or through the City.

2206. Penalties and enforcement.

- (a) In addition to all other penalties and remedies which might apply, any knowing and willful violation of this Article by a public official or a person or entity receiving a public benefit as defined in Section 2202(b) constitutes a criminal misdemeanor offense.
- (b) A civil action may be brought against any person who violates this article. A finding of liability shall subject the violator to one or more of the following civil remedies:
 - (1) restitution of the personal or campaign advantage received, which shall accrue to the general fund of the City;
 - (2) a civil penalty of up to five times the value of the personal or campaign advantage received;
 - (3) injunctive relief necessary to prevent present and future violations of this Article;
 - (4) disqualification from future public office or position within the jurisdiction, if violations are willful, egregious, or repeated.
- (c) A civil action under subdivision (b) of this section may be brought by any resident of the City. In the event that such an action is brought by a resident of the City and the petitioner prevails, the respondent public official shall pay reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing petitioner. Civil penalties collected in such a prosecution shall accrue 10% to the petitioner, and 90% to the City's general fund.
- (d) When the City Attorney receives a complaint containing a violation of this Article from any person or entity, the City Attorney must promptly, for the purposes of assessment and prosecution, either:
 - (1) Refer the complaint to the Chief Deputy of the Criminal Division or another attorney in the City Attorney's Office; or
 - (2) Refer the complaint to an independent investigator hired by the City.

2207. Severability.

If any provision of this Article is held invalid, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalidated provision, and to this end the provisions of this Article are severable.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

3001. Application for a vote by mail voter's ballot.

No later than 29 days before the day of the election, the county elections official shall begin mailing the materials required by Section 3010. The county elections official shall have five days to mail a ballot to each active registered voter by the 29th day before the day of the election and five days for each voter who registers to vote after that date. The county elections official shall not discriminate against any region or precinct in the county in choosing which ballots to mail first within the prescribed five-day mailing period.

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 161, Sec. 1. (AB 2608) Effective August 22, 2022.)

3003. Vote by mail ballot available to any registered voter.

The vote by mail ballot shall be available to any registered voter.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTIONS CODE

8600. Write-in candidate filing requirements; statement and nomination papers.

(a) Every person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have their name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office shall file both of the following:

(1) A statement of write-in candidacy that contains the following information:

(A)Candidate's name.

(B)Residence address.

(C)A declaration stating that they are a write-in candidate.

(D)The title of the office for which they are running.

(E)The party nomination which they seek, if running in a partisan primary election.

(F)The date of the election.

(G)A certification of the candidate's complete voter registration and party affiliation/preference history for the preceding 10 years, or for as long as they have been eligible to vote in the state if less than 10 years, if running for a voter-nominated office.

(H)For any of the offices described in Section 13.5, a statement that the candidate meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for that office as described in that section.

(2)The requisite number of signatures on the nomination papers, if any, required pursuant to Sections 8062, 10220, and 10510, or, in the case of a special district not subject to the Uniform District Election Law (Part 4 (commencing with Section 10500) of Division 10), the number of signatures required by the principal act of the district.

(b)Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may not be a write-in candidate at the general election for a voter-nominated office.

(c)A write-in candidate shall have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of Section 2166.9. If a candidate does not state the candidate's residence address on the statement of write-in candidacy, the elections official shall verify whether the candidate's address is within the appropriate political subdivision and add the notation "verified" where appropriate on the declaration.

(Amended by Stats. 2025, Ch. 300, Sec. 5. (AB 1392) Effective January 1, 2026.)

8601. The statement and nomination papers shall be available on the 57th day prior to the election for which the candidate is filing as a write-in candidate, and shall be delivered to the elections official responsible for the conduct of the election no later than the 14th day prior to the election.

8602. The nomination papers for a write-in candidate shall be substantially in the same form as set forth in Section 8041.

(Amended by Stats. 1999, Ch. 790, Sec. 42. Effective January 1, 2000.)

8603. Signers of nomination papers for write-in candidates shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on. In addition, if the candidate is seeking a party nomination for an office, the signers shall also be affiliated with the party whose nomination is sought.

8604. No fee or charge shall be required of a write-in candidate except in the case of a candidate for city office, as provided in Section 10228.

