

# Information Sheet Qualifications and Requirements

## United States Representative in Congress, 32<sup>nd</sup> District Special Election

The Governor issued the proclamation for a special **GENERAL** election to be held on **July 14, 2009**. The date of the special **PRIMARY** election is scheduled for **May 19, 2009**.

The date of the primary election is calculated by counting back eight Tuesdays or, if the eighth Tuesday is the day of or the day following a state holiday, the ninth Tuesday preceding the day of the special general election at which the vacancy is to be filled. § 10704<sup>1</sup>

### I. QUALIFICATIONS

- A. A candidate shall be at least 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for seven years, and a resident of California when elected. There is no durational residency requirement for congressional candidates. U.S. Const., Art. I, § 2
- B. Satisfy the following registration requirements:
  - 1. Be registered with the political party whose nomination he or she is seeking for not less than three months immediately prior to the time the declaration of candidacy is presented to the county elections official or, if eligible to register for less than three months, for as long as he or she has been eligible to register to vote in California. § 8001(a)
  - 2. Not have been registered as affiliated with any other qualified political party within 3 months immediately prior to the filing of the declaration of candidacy. § 8001(a)

### II. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. FILING FEES

Every candidate must pay a filing fee equal to 1% of the first year salary. Currently the filing fee is \$1,740.00. This must be presented to the county elections official at the time the candidate obtains the nomination papers from the county elections official. §§ 8103(a)(2), 8105

A candidate may choose to submit by March 22, 2009, petitions-in-lieu of filing fees containing a minimum of 3,000 signatures of registered voters residing in the district. § 8106(a)(2) & (b)(3)

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<sup>1</sup> All code section references are to the California Elections Code unless stated otherwise.

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The 3,000 in-lieu signature requirement applies to candidates seeking the nomination of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as independent candidates. Candidates seeking the nomination of the American Independent, Green, Libertarian, or Peace and Freedom party may submit a petition containing, respectively, 150, 90, 87, or 150 signatures of members of their respective political party. §§ 8106(a)(2) & (a)(6)

1. Petitions for in-lieu signatures may be obtained from the county elections official between February 25, 2009 and March 22, 2009.
2. The candidate may submit signatures to cover all or any prorated portion of the filing fee.
3. A registered voter may sign an in-lieu of filing fee petition for any candidate for whom he or she is eligible to vote.<sup>2</sup>

#### **B. FOR PARTISAN CANDIDATES ONLY**

1. Obtain nomination documents from the county elections official of the candidate's county of residence between March 17, 2009 and April 6, 2009 inclusive. Nomination documents include nomination papers for collecting signatures and a Declaration of Candidacy that must be executed by the candidate. §§ 333, 10704(a)
  - a. The Declaration of Candidacy shall be obtained from, and delivered to, the county elections official of the candidate's county of residence. § 8064
  - b. The county elections official shall require all candidates filing a Declaration of Candidacy to execute the declaration in his or her office unless the candidate designates a third party to obtain the declaration form from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. The written statement shall state that the candidate is aware that the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered not later than April 6, 2009, to the office of the county elections official from whom it was obtained. The statement must be signed and dated by the candidate. Any person may return the completed Declaration of Candidacy. §§ 8028 & 10704
2. Gather between 40 and 60 signatures for filing the nomination paper. § 8062(a)(2)
  - a. Signatures on the in-lieu filing fee petitions may satisfy this signature requirement if the signers are of the same party as the candidate. § 8061

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<sup>2</sup> An exception exists if members of the American Independent, Green, Libertarian, or Peace and Freedom parties wish to use the § 8106(a)(6) provisions. In the case of candidates wishing to use this provision, all signatures must be from their political party.

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- b. All signers must be registered voters in the district or political subdivision and members of the same political party as the candidate. § 8068
- c. The candidate may appoint persons to circulate the nomination paper. Circulators shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on and shall serve only in that district or political subdivision. § 8066
- d. Each section of the nomination paper shall be delivered to the county elections official of the county in which the signer resides and is a voter. § 8063
- e. Any candidate may obtain signatures to and sign his or her own nomination papers. § 106(a)

**C. FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES ONLY**

- 1. Circulate nomination papers for signatures in the congressional district between March 17, 2009 and April 6, 2009, and leave them for examination with the county elections official of the county in which the papers were circulated. § 10704
  - a. The nomination papers must be signed by voters in the district not less in number than 500 or 1% of the entire vote cast in the area at the preceding general election, whichever is less, nor more than 1,000. For this election, the signature requirement is 1,000. § 8400
  - b. Any candidate may obtain signatures to and sign his or her own nomination papers. § 106(a)
  - c. All signers must be eligible registered voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is running at the time they sign the nomination papers. §§ 100, 8400
  - d. The candidate may appoint persons to circulate the nomination paper. Circulators shall be voters in the district or political subdivision in which the candidate is to be voted on and shall serve only in that district or political subdivision. § 8451
- 2. File with the county elections official, not later than April 6, 2009, a Declaration of Candidacy which states the following:
  - a. The candidate's complete residence address;
  - b. That the candidate is a voter in the precinct in which he or she resides;
  - c. The name of the office sought;
  - d. That he or she will not withdraw as a candidate before the election;
  - e. That if elected, he or she will qualify for the office; and

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- f. That the candidate is not, and was not at any time during the three (3) months preceding the filing of the declaration of candidacy, registered as affiliated with a political party qualified under Section 5100. §§ 8550, 10704

**D. FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES ONLY**

- 1. Between March 23, 2009 and May 5, 2009 for the primary election and May 18, 2009 and June 30, 2009 for the general election, file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy. The Statement of Write-In Candidacy shall contain the following information:
  - a. Candidate's name;
  - b. Candidate's complete residence address;
  - c. A declaration stating that the candidate is a write-in candidate;
  - d. The name of the office for which the candidate is running;
  - e. The party nomination which the candidate seeks, if running in a primary election (a candidate need not be registered with the party whose nomination he/she is seeking); and
  - f. The date of the election. §§ 8600, 8601
  
- 2. In order to be nominated at the primary election, the write-in candidate must receive more votes than any other candidate running for that party's nomination, and must also receive votes equal to at least 1% of all votes cast for that office at the last preceding general election at which the office was filled. For this election the requisite vote requirement is **1,302**. § 8605(a)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. Each of the forms mentioned above is available free of charge from the county elections official.
  
- B. California has 53 members of the House of Representatives elected for two-year terms.

This publication is for general information only and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation, or rule. In case of conflict, the law, regulation, or rule will apply. The candidate should obtain the most up-to-date information available because of possible changes in law or procedure since the publication of this information.

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**MAY 19, 2009 - PRIMARY**

**JULY 14, 2009 - GENERAL**

**SIGNATURE-IN-LIEU-OF-FILING-FEE REQUIREMENTS**

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Filing Fee</u>	<u>Signatures in Lieu of the Filing Fee</u>	<u>Value of Each Signature</u>
Democratic	\$1,740	3,000	\$0.58
Republican	\$1,740	3,000	\$0.58
American Independent	\$1,740	150*	\$11.60
Green	\$1,740	90*	\$19.33333
Libertarian	\$1,740	87*	\$20
Peace and Freedom	\$1,740	150*	\$11.60

**NOMINATION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES**  
§ 8400

Entire votes cast in area (November 4, 2008)	130,150
Nomination signatures required	1,000

**WRITE-IN VOTES REQUIRED FOR NOMINATION AT THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**  
§ 8605

Total votes last cast for office (November 4, 2008)	130,150
Write-in votes required for nomination	1,302

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\*Must be registered to vote as affiliated with the same party as the candidate. § 8106(a)(6)