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ELECTIONS DIVISION

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Summary of  
Qualifications and Requirements for the Offices of

**SECRETARY OF STATE, CONTROLLER, AND TREASURER**

June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

**I. QUALIFICATIONS**

Every candidate shall:

- A. Be a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person. § 201<sup>1</sup>
- B. Not have 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. § 20
- C. Not have served two terms in the office. Cal. Const., art. V, § 11

**II. REQUIREMENTS**

**A. CAMPAIGN FILINGS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Any individual who intends to be a candidate for an elective state office shall:

**1. Candidate Intention Statement**

File with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) for the specific state office sought. A separate Form 501 must be filed for each election, including re-election to the same office. This statement shall be signed under penalty of perjury and filed prior to the solicitation or receipt of any contribution or loan, including expenditures made from personal funds used for campaign purposes. Gov. Code § 85200

**2. Campaign Contribution Account**

- a. A Statement of Organization—Recipient Committee (Form 410) shall be filed with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 or more in a calendar year. Gov. Code §§ 82013(a), 84101

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

- b. Establish one campaign contribution account at an office of a financial institution located in California after filing the Candidate Intention Statement.  
Gov. Code § 85201(a)
- c. All contributions or loans made to the candidate, to a person on behalf of the candidate, or to the candidate's controlled committee shall be deposited in the account.  
Gov. Code § 85201(c)
- d. Any personal funds, which will be used to promote the election of the candidate, shall be deposited in the account prior to expenditure.  
Gov. Code § 85201(d)
- e. All campaign expenditures shall be made from the account.  
Gov. Code § 85201(e)

3. Exceptions

- a. Parts 1 and 2(d) and (e), above, do not apply to a candidate's payment of a filing fee and statement of qualifications fee from their personal funds.  
Gov. Code §§ 85200, 85201(f)
- b. Part 2, above, does not apply if the candidate does not receive contributions and makes campaign expenditures from personal funds of less than \$2,000 in a calendar year, excluding payment of the filing fee and statement of qualifications fee.  
Gov. Code § 85201(g)
- c. An individual who raises contributions from others for their campaign, but who raises or spends less than \$2,000 in a calendar year, shall establish a campaign contribution account but is not required to file a Statement of Organization or other statement of bank account information.  
Gov. Code § 85201(h)

B. FILING FEES

1. Full Payment of Filing Fee

A candidate must pay a filing fee equal to 2% of the first year's salary as of the first day on which a candidate may circulate petitions in lieu of filing fees, made payable to the Secretary of State. Currently, the filing fee for Secretary of State is \$3,688.94, for Controller is \$3,934.86, and for Treasurer is \$3,934.86. The filing fee must be paid to the county elections official at the time the candidate obtains their Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers from the county elections official of the candidate's county of residence.  
§§ 8103(a)(1), 8105

2. Signatures In Lieu of Filing Fee

A candidate may choose to submit by February 4, 2026 (E-118), a minimum of 6,000 valid signatures on petitions in lieu of filing fee. §§ 8106(a)(3), 8106(b)(3), 8162(b)

- a. Petitions for in-lieu signatures may be obtained from the county elections official and circulated between December 19, 2025 (E-165), and February 4, 2026 (E-118). Sections of in-lieu-filing-fee petitions shall be filed with the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside. §§ 8106(b), 8162
- b. The candidate may submit signatures to cover all or any prorated portion of the filing fee. § 8106(b)(3)
- c. Any registered voter may sign an in-lieu-filing-fee petition for any candidate for whom they are eligible to vote. § 8106(b)(1)
- d. Circulators of in-lieu-filing-fee petitions must be 18 years of age or older. § 102
- e. Within 10 days after receipt of the petition, the county elections official shall notify the candidate of any deficiency. The candidate shall then, at the time of obtaining nomination forms, pay a pro rata portion of the filing fee to cover the deficiency. § 8106(b)(3)
- f. Signatures in lieu of the filing fee may be counted toward the nomination sponsor signature requirements. §§ 8061, 8106(d)

#### **Signature In Lieu of Filing Fee Requirements**

§§ 8106(a)(3), 8162(b)

| <u>Candidates</u>                                                       | <u>Filing Fee</u> | <u>Signatures In Lieu<br/>of Filing Fee</u> | <u>Value of Each<br/>Signature</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| All Secretary of<br>State Candidates<br>(except write-in<br>candidates) | \$3,688.94        | 6,000                                       | \$0.614823333                      |
| All Controller<br>Candidates (except<br>write-in candidates)            | \$3,934.86        | 6,000                                       | \$0.65581                          |
| All Treasurer<br>Candidates (except<br>write-in candidates)             | \$3,934.86        | 6,000                                       | \$0.65581                          |

#### **C. BALLOT DESIGNATIONS**

1. Each candidate who submits a ballot designation shall file a completed ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of that ballot designation by the candidate. The ballot designation worksheet shall be filed with the elections official at the same time that the candidate files their declaration of candidacy. § 13107.3

2. The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both primary and general elections, unless the candidate, at least 98 days prior to the general election, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request. The written request must be accompanied by a ballot designation worksheet.  
§ 13107(h)

D. STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

1. Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests electronically with the Fair Political Practices Commission disclosing investments, interests in real property, and any income received during the immediately preceding 12 months pursuant to the requirements of the Political Reform Act of 1974, As Amended.  
Gov. Code §§ 87200, 87201, 87500(a)
2. This statement is to be filed between February 9, 2026 (E-113), and March 6, 2026 (E-88). It is not required if the candidate has filed such statements within the past 60 days for the same jurisdiction.  
Gov. Code § 87201

E. FOR ALL CANDIDATES (EXCEPT WRITE-IN CANDIDATES)

1. Between February 9, 2026 (E-113), and March 6, 2026 (E-88), obtain nomination documents from the county elections official of the candidate's county of residence. Nomination documents include nomination papers for collecting signatures and a Declaration of Candidacy that must be executed by the candidate.  
§§ 333, 8020, 8040, 8041
2. Nomination Papers
  - a. Gather between 65 and 100 signatures for filing the nomination papers.  
§ 8062(a)(1)
  - b. Signatures on the in-lieu-filing-fee petitions may satisfy this signature requirement.  
§§ 8061, 8106(d)
  - c. Any candidate may obtain signatures for and sign their own nomination papers.  
§ 106(a)
  - d. All signers must be registered California voters.  
§§ 100, 8068
  - e. The candidate may appoint persons to circulate the nomination papers. Circulators must be 18 years of age or older.  
§§ 102, 8066
  - f. Between February 9, 2026 (E-113), and March 6, 2026 (E-88), 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.  
§§ 8020, 8063

3. Declaration of Candidacy

- a. The Declaration of Candidacy shall be obtained from, and delivered to, the county elections official of the county in which the candidate resides and is a voter.  
§§ 8040, 8064
  - b. Upon request of a candidate, the county elections official shall provide the candidate with a Declaration of Candidacy. The county elections official shall not require a candidate to sign, file, or sign and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a condition of receiving nomination papers.  
§ 8020(d)
  - c. The county elections official shall require all candidates filing a Declaration of Candidacy to execute the declaration in their office unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the declaration form from the county elections official and to 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 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026 (E-88), to the office of the county elections official from whom it was received. Any person may return the completed Declaration of Candidacy.  
§ 8028
4. If the eligible incumbent fails to file the nomination documents by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026 (E-88), any other person, if otherwise qualified, may obtain and file the nomination documents by 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2026 (E-83).  
§§ 8020, 8022
  5. If a candidate has declared a candidacy for a voter-nominated office at the primary election and that candidate dies after March 6, 2026 (E-88), but on or before March 11, 2026 (E-83), any person otherwise qualified may circulate and deliver nomination documents for the nomination for that office to the county elections official by 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026 (E-74).  
§ 8025

F. FOR WRITE-IN CANDIDATES ONLY AND ONLY FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

1. Filing Fees

Write-in candidates are not required to pay filing fees.  
§ 8604

2. Nomination Paper

- a. Gather between 65 and 100 signatures for filing the nomination papers.  
§§ 8062(a)(1), 8600
- b. The candidate may appoint persons to circulate the nomination papers. Circulators must be 18 years of age or older.  
§§ 102, 8066
- c. All signers must be registered California voters.  
§§ 100, 8603

- d. Between April 6, 2026 (E-57), and May 19, 2026 (E-14), circulate nomination papers for signatures and leave them for examination with the county elections official of the county in which the signers reside. § 8601

3. Statement of Write-In Candidacy

- a. Between April 6, 2026 (E-57), and May 19, 2026 (E-14), file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy with the county elections official of the candidate's county of residence. § 8601

- b. The Statement of Write-In Candidacy shall contain the following information:

- i. Candidate's name,
- ii. Candidate's complete residence address,
- iii. A declaration stating that the candidate is a write-in candidate,
- iv. The name of the office for which the candidate is running,
- v. The date of the election, and
- vi. Candidate's 10-year political party preference history. § 8600

- 4. Write-in candidates can only run in the primary election. In order to be nominated to appear on the general election ballot, the write-in candidate must receive the highest number of votes cast for these offices or the second highest number of votes cast for these offices at the primary election, unless there is a tie.

§§ 8142, 8600(c), 8605, 8606

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Each of the forms mentioned above is available free of charge from the county elections official. § 8101
- B. The terms of office for Secretary of State, Controller, and Treasurer are four years, beginning on January 4, 2027. Cal. Const., art V, § 11
- C. Because of the requirements of the Political Reform Act, As Amended, a candidate should visit the website of the Fair Political Practices Commission at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov) for the most recent copy of the Information Manual on Campaign Disclosure Provisions of the Political Reform Act, which gives the filing requirements for reporting campaign contributions, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This information sheet of candidate qualifications and procedures 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.