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CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Elections Division

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November 15, 2023

County Clerk/Registrar of Voter (CC/ROV) Memorandum # 23121

TO: All County Clerks/Registrar of Voters

FROM: /s/ Robbie Anderson
Elections Counsel

RE: Presidential Primary: Office of United States Senate

The office of United States Senate must appear two times on the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election ballot. Each is for a separate term of office:

- The Full Term – Six-year term of office beginning January 3, 2025, through January 3, 2031. This is the regular election.
- The Partial/Unexpired Term – Remainder of the current term. This term begins after the November 2024 general election and ends on January 3, 2025. This is the special vacancy election. The current officeholder is temporarily filling the vacancy.

Candidate Filing

During candidate filing, U.S. Senate candidates must declare which U.S. Senate term(s) they are running for: the Full Term and/or the Partial/Unexpired Term.

There are separate nomination documents for the Full Term and for the Partial/Unexpired Term. Each term also requires a separate filing fee. A person can run for both terms, but if they do, they will need to complete nomination documents for each term and pay filing fees for each term.

Ballot Layout and Instructions

Elections Code section 10720(d)(1) requires that the candidates for the Partial/Unexpired Term for U.S. Senate shall appear on the same consolidated ballot

“immediately after the candidates for the regular election” for the Full Term.

In addition, Section 10720(d)(3) requires county elections officials to include on the ballot, “in a box immediately above the spaces on the ballot for United States Senate elections, a notice that advises voters that the ballot includes elections for the succeeding term and for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacated Senate seat.” This notice shall appear in “boldface type and a clearly legible font size.”

The language prescribed by the Secretary of State for the notice on the ballot, as required by Section 10720(d)(3), is as follows:

There are two U.S. Senate contests on this ballot.

- **One for the regular 6-year term ending January 3, 2031**
- **One for the remainder of the current term ending January 3, 2025**

You may vote for both contests.

This notice language will be translated by the Secretary of State to ensure uniformity throughout the state. Translations will be provided in the following languages: Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Instructions to Voters

As required by Elections Code section 10720(d)(2), elections officials who provide voter information guides, sample ballots, and ballot materials “shall include on those materials a notice that advises voters that the ballot includes elections for the succeeding term and for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacated Senate seat.” This notice shall appear in “boldface type and in a clearly legible font size.”

The language prescribed by the Secretary of State for the notice, as required by Section 10720(d)(2), is as follows:

There are two U.S. Senate contests on the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election ballot.

The first contest is the regular election for the full 6-year term ending January 3, 2031.

The second contest is a special vacancy election (the current officeholder is temporarily filling a vacancy) for the remainder of the current term ending January 3, 2025.

You may vote for both contests.

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This instruction language also will be translated into the above-referenced languages by the Secretary of State to ensure uniformity throughout the state.

If you have any questions, please contact Robbie Anderson at aanderso@sos.ca.gov or Rachelle Delucchi at rdelucch@sos.ca.gov.