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California Secretary of State

Elections Division

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December 30, 2025

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #25182

TO: All County Clerks/Registrar of Voters

FROM: /s/ Tamiko Heim
Voter Information Guide and Initiatives Manager

RE: Primary Election: Candidate Statement Package

Attached for your review and distribution is the candidate statement package for the upcoming June 2, 2026, Primary Election. Please note that the deadline for the candidate statements to be included in the Primary Election state Voter Information Guide is **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026**.

Although we ask that you provide these materials to the candidates, they must file their candidate statement forms and payment with the Secretary of State's office.

If you have any questions regarding these documents or procedures, please contact me at (916) 704-3841 or candidate-statements@sos.ca.gov. Thank you.

Attachment



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Thank you for your interest in submitting a candidate statement to be included in the California State Voter Information Guide for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election.

Attached are copies of the following documents for your information:

- Candidate Statement Guidelines, including requirements for candidate statement, photo submission, and payment details
- Candidate Contact Information Form
- Signed Candidate Statement & Declaration Form
- Candidate Statement Checklist
- Word Count Standards

You may also wish to review Elections Code sections 9092, 13307 – 13314 and Government Code section 88000 – 88007, which describe the Voter Information Guide and Candidate Statements.

If you have any questions, please contact the Voter Information Guide team via phone at (916) 704-3841 or email at candidate-statements@sos.ca.gov.

Thank you.

Enclosures

June 2, 2026, Primary Election Candidate Statement Guidelines



PLEASE NOTE:

- All deadlines are final. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to submit candidate statement packages early.
- Please proofread your submission. If a statement is accepted, the information as provided on the forms is exactly how it will appear in the state Voter Information Guide.

Candidate Statement Guidelines

- The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.**
- The text of the statement shall not exceed 250 words. Word count standards are governed by Elections Code section 9. For additional details, please see page 9 in this packet.
- The statement should be typewritten, double-spaced, and in standard paragraph style. Do not use bullets, tables, lists, or other material requiring indentation.
- Words that are underlined, in italics, or in bold, will be typeset in italics. Statements that are entirely in all upper-case letters will be typeset in italics.
- The statement may not make reference to any other candidate. The statement shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications.
- The candidate statement shall be accompanied by a declaration that the statement being submitted is true and correct and shall be attested to and signed by the candidate. A declaration is provided on the candidate statement and declaration form for your convenience.
- Statements shall be printed in the state Voter Information Guide in the order determined by a randomized alphabet drawn in substantially the same manner as set forth in Elections Code section 13112. The names and statements will remain in this order throughout the state and do not rotate as names do on actual ballots.

Candidate Photograph Guidelines

- Candidate statements may also include a recent photograph of the candidate.
- The photograph submitted must be taken on a light (not white) background and limited to the head and shoulders of the candidate. The resolution of the

photograph should be around 300 dpi and may not be a computer-generated image, but from a photographic file. Professional headshots preferred. Photographs will be printed in grayscale. Please note that any photographs submitted with low resolution or of poor quality will not be altered prior to printing.

- The photograph must not depict a judicial robe, uniform, or other type of apparel (including hats and head-coverings) which could reasonably be construed as being indicative of an occupation, profession, or organizational affiliation. However, clothing or apparel required to be worn in accordance with the candidate's religious beliefs shall be acceptable. The candidate shall not wear or display, in their photograph, buttons, pins, insignias, emblems, hats, head-coverings, any flags, other than the flag of the United States or California State flag, or other items which would indicate a specific political, professional, or occupational affiliation.
- The photo must be submitted via email at candidate-statements@sos.ca.gov. **The photo file must be saved as the candidate's name (first_last.jpg; example: Pat_Smith.jpg).**

Form 501 Filing – Copy

- Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement – An original Form 501 for each candidate running for statewide office must be filed at the Secretary of State's office, Political Reform Division, 1500 11th Street, Fourth Floor - Room 495, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you wish to have your candidate statement included in the state Voter Information Guide for the Statewide Direct Primary Election, **you must file your Form 501 with the Political Reform Division on or before February 11, 2026.**
- A copy of a properly filed Form 501 (bearing the Secretary of State's office date stamp), which indicates the candidate's **acceptance of the voluntary expenditure limit**, must accompany the candidate statement package when submitted to the Elections Division.

Payment for Candidate Statement

- The fee for a candidate statement to be included in the state Voter Information Guide for the California Statewide Direct Primary Election is \$25.00 per word, not to exceed \$6,250.00 (250 words).
- Payment in the amount of \$25.00 per word, not to exceed \$6,250.00, must be included with the candidate statement package by check, money order, or credit card, payable to the **Secretary of State**.
- If payment is made by check, the check amount should be left blank with a note on the check indicating that the check is "Not to exceed \$6,250.00." The Secretary of State's office will conduct a word count to determine the cost and will forward to the candidate a copy of the executed check in the appropriate

amount for their records. If payment is made by a check and it does not clear the candidate's banking institution before the end of the state Voter Information Guide public display period (**March 9, 2026**), the candidate statement **will not** be printed in the state Voter Information Guide.

- If payment is made by postal money order, the order should include the candidate's name and be made payable to the **Secretary of State**. If multiple money orders are needed to meet the total amount due based on an estimated word count, please indicate all necessary information on each money order. The Secretary of State's office will conduct a final word count to determine the total cost. A refund will be provided, if applicable, for any overpayment.
- If payment is made by credit card, the full amount of \$6,250.00 (250 words) will be charged to the card. If the final word count of the candidate statement is less than the 250-word maximum, and the card has been charged the full amount of \$6,250.00, a refund will be issued by the State Controller's Office via check after the Public Display Period. To make a payment by credit card, please contact Tamiko Heim, Voter Information Guide and Initiatives Manager, by calling **(916) 704-3841**.
- If a payment for the candidate statement is not received by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026**, the candidate statement **will not** be printed in the state Voter Information Guide.

Submission Information

- The candidate statement, photo, and payment must be received by the Secretary of State's Elections Division **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026**.
- The candidate statement, photograph, and accompanying forms may also be submitted via email or fax by the deadline. Candidate statements and accompanying forms may be scanned and emailed to candidate-statements@sos.ca.gov or faxed to (916) 653-3214 by the deadline. The original copies of the signed forms must be received at the SOS Elections Division within 72 hours of electronic or fax submittal. **This does NOT apply to payment, which must be received by mail or in-person by the deadline, 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.**
- The original copy of the candidate statement and accompanying forms must be submitted by mail or delivered in person using either of the following methods:

Express Delivery/Mail:

California Secretary of State
Elections Division
Attn: Candidate Statement Coordinator
1500 11th Street, Fifth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

In-person/Courier Service:

California Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

To drop off materials, please contact Tamiko Heim at **(916) 704-3841**.

Drop off hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In person filings will NOT be accepted in the Secretary of State's Los Angeles office.

- If the Secretary of State's Elections Division has not received a candidate statement, accompanying forms, and payment by 5:00 p.m. on February 11, 2026, the statement **will not** be printed in the state Voter Information Guide.
- Should the Secretary of State's office disqualify any statement or photograph based on these provisions, the Secretary of State's office shall immediately notify the candidate of the specific objections. The candidate may address the objections by making appropriate changes prior to the submission deadline or within 24 hours of the notification of disqualification.
- No statement filed shall be made public or shall be available for viewing by the Secretary of State's office until the state Voter Information Guide is available for public examination, pursuant to Government Code section 88006 and Elections Code section 9092.
- A filed statement may be withdrawn and resubmitted before the deadline. However, once a statement is filed and the deadline has passed, it may be withdrawn completely, but shall not be changed nor resubmitted, unless required by the Secretary of State's office.
- Every candidate statement that is to be included in the state Voter Information Guide will include a heading, consisting of the candidate's name and the candidate's qualified political party preference. If the candidate does not have a qualified political party preference, the term "No Qualified Party Preference" will appear in the heading. The heading is not part of the candidate statement and will not count toward the 250-word count.

June 2, 2026, Primary Election Candidate Contact Information Form



The following form shall be used for candidate statements submitted to the Secretary of State's office for inclusion in the state Voter Information Guide for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. This form must be submitted to the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.**

- A maximum of 250 words may be used. Word count standards shall be pursuant to [Elections Code section 9](#).
- The statement may not make reference to any other candidate.
- The statement should be typewritten, double-spaced, and in standard paragraph style. Do not use bullets, tables, lists, or other material requiring indentation.
- Words that are underlined, in italics, in bold, or in all upper-case letters will be typeset in italics.
- Please refer to the section in this packet entitled "Candidate Statement Guidelines" for a complete list of requirements.

Candidate's Name: _____

Political Party Preference*: _____

**Please list your political party preference as it is reflected on your current affidavit of registration. If you are not registered with a qualified political party, your political party preference will be indicated in the Voter Information Guide as "No Qualified Party Preference."*

The following optional information will appear with your candidate statement.

For safety and privacy considerations, please do not list your personal residence.

This information is not included in the 250-word count.

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Social Media #1**: _____

Social Media #2**: _____

***Please note: No more than two (2) social media accounts will be posted for each candidate statement.*

**June 2, 2026, Primary Election
Candidate Statement & Declaration Form**



Candidate's Name: _____

Political Party Preference*: _____

**Please list your political party preference as it is reflected on your current affidavit of registration. If you are not registered with a qualified political party, your political party preference will be indicated in the Voter Information Guide as "No Qualified Party Preference."*

Please sign and attach this form to the Candidate Statement.

I, the undersigned author of the attached candidate statement, hereby declare that I have read, fully understand, and will comply with the requirements contained in this packet and that the candidate statement submitted herewith is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Candidate Signature

Date

June 2, 2026, Primary Election Candidate Statement Checklist



- Candidate Statement (typewritten and double-spaced)
- Candidate photograph (submitted via email or delivered)
- Candidate Contact Information Form
- Signed Candidate Statement & Declaration Form
- Candidate Statement Checklist
- Copy of Properly Filed Form 501
- Check, Money Order, or Credit Card payable to the *Secretary of State*

IMPORTANT: Person to Contact Regarding Candidate Statement

The following information for the candidate's contact person is critical to ensure communication between the candidate and Elections Division staff. **This information will not appear in the state Voter Information Guide:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Cell: _____ Fax: _____

June 2, 2026, Primary Election Candidate Statement Guidelines



Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified below.

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 Web site addresses shall be counted as one word.

See [California Elections Code section 9](#)