



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

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August 16, 2019

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #19069

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters
FROM: /s/ Robbie Anderson, Elections Counsel
RE: Presidential Primary Election: County Central Committees

This memorandum is being issued to address timing issues that exist in the Elections Code with respect to the central committee elections process for the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election. The first issue relates to the deadlines for calculating the number of central committee members to be elected at the presidential primary election. The second issue relates to the formula for calculating the number of members.

Deadlines to Calculate Number of Central Committee Members

Except for the Green Party, the deadlines to calculate the number of central committee members to be elected occur after the nomination period opens on E-158 (Elec. Code § 8020(b)):

For the American Independent Party, the number of members would be unknown until E-125. (Elec. Code § 7671.)

For the Peace and Freedom and Libertarian parties, if a county central committee election will be held, the number of members would be unknown until E-115. (Elec. Code §§ 7770, 7771.)

For the Democratic and Republican parties, in some counties, the number of members would be unknown until E-32. (Elec. Code §§ 7226, 7421.)

Formula for Calculating the Number of Members

Except for the Democratic and Republican parties, the calculations for the number of central committee members to be elected are based on the 154-Day Report of Registration (ROR). The 154-day ROR is not available until approximately

E-105, which is not only 53 days after the date the nomination forms must be made available to the candidates, it is after the deadline for the American

Independent, Peace and Freedom, and Libertarian parties to compute the number of members to be elected.

Pertinent Elections Code Sections for the Parties

Democratic Party: §§ 7200, 7201, 7201.1, 7201.2, 7202, 7203, 7204, 7226

Republican Party: §§ 7400, 7400.1, 7400.3, 7400.5, 7401, 7402, 7403, 7421

American Independent Party: §§ 7650, 7651, 7671

Peace and Freedom and Libertarian parties: §§ 7770, 7771

Green Party: §§ 7902, 7912, 7913

Recommendations

Deadlines to Calculate Number of Central Committee Members

Computation

The Secretary of State recommends that county elections officials compute the number of central committee members in their county for all parties, except the American Independent and Green parties, by September 10, 2019 (E-175). This recommendation is based on the deadline set forth in the Elections Code for the Green Party.

For the American Independent and Green parties, the Secretary of State will compute the numbers of available central committee and county council members, by county, by September 10, 2019.

Notification

Additionally, the Secretary of State recommends that county elections officials notify the appropriate county central committees for all parties, except the American Independent and Green parties, of the results of that calculation by September 13, 2019 (E-172).

For the American Independent and Green parties, the Secretary of State will notify the appropriate county central committees and county councils by September 13, 2019.

Formula for Calculating the Number of Members

For the Peace and Freedom and Libertarian parties, the Secretary of State recommends that county elections officials use the Odd-Numbered Year Report of Registration for the calculation of the number of members. The

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recommendation to use the Odd-Numbered Year Report of Registration for the calculation of the number of members is based the process set forth in the Elections Code for the Green Party.

For the American Independent and Green parties, the Secretary of State will use the Odd-Numbered Year Report of Registration for the calculation of the number of members.

For the Democratic and Republican parties, the calculation of the number of central committee members is and should continue to be based on the number of votes cast in the appropriate district at the last gubernatorial election for the respective party's candidate for Governor, as set forth in the Elections Code.

If you have not already done so, it is recommended that you contact the party central committees in your county to request that they notify you by Friday, September 13, 2019, as to whether or not the county central committee intends to use the public ballot for the election of their central committee members.

If you have any questions, please contact me at aanderso@sos.ca.gov or (916) 657-2166.