

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OVERVIEW

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Each candidate may prepare a voluntary Candidate's Statement which will be printed in the Sample Ballot Voter Information Pamphlet and mailed to all registered voters within the jurisdiction of that office. The candidate must pay for the actual cost of the document to be processed, including printing, translations, etc. This form will be provided by the City Clerk's Office. The candidate's statement must be filed at the same time as the nomination papers. The candidate's statement is designed to acquaint voters with a candidate's qualifications for the office they are seeking.

Disclaimer: Nothing in this section shall be deemed to make any such statement or the authors thereof free or exempt from any civil or criminal action or penalty because of any false, slanderous or libelous statements offered for printing or contained in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

A. PUBLIC EXAMINATION AND CHALLENGE OF CONTENT EC §13313, 13314

After the close of the nomination period, any voter of the City may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction, during the 10-calendar-day examination period, requiring any or all of the material to be amended or deleted.

Elections Code §18351 provides that any candidate for a local nonpartisan office in an election who prepares a candidate's statement and knowingly makes a false statement of a material fact with the intent to mislead the voters is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

B. COST EC §13307, 13309

Candidate's statements are paid for at the time they are filed because of the many unknown factors involved in translating, printing, handling, mailing, and the number of candidates filing a statement. It is difficult to determine the exact cost for each candidate statement prior to the election. The City of Solana Beach has elected to allow no more than 400 words in the candidate's statement.

Therefore, an estimated amount will be assessed at the time of filing the candidate's statement.

Mayor of the City Council = \$2,200

Member of the City Council Districts 1 or 3 = \$1,900

As soon as possible after the close of the election, the City Clerk will ascertain the actual cost incurred by the City. As a result of providing such service, the City will bill or refund each candidate for the amount equal to a pro-rata share of all actual costs, less the deposit paid.

If a candidate elects to have a candidate statement and is unable to pay for the statement when filing their nomination paper but can pay at a later date, they may claim indigence. A statement of financial worth must be submitted, provided by the City Clerk. All claims of indigence are reviewed by the Office of the City Clerk for acceptance. If indigence is verified, the claim shall be accepted. Acceptance of a claim of indigence does NOT waive the candidate statement fees, it only allows the candidate to postpone payment for the statement until after the election.

C. PREPARATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT *EC §13307, 13308*

Candidates are limited to the paragraph format restrictions as explained in the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications Guidelines on the form.

The **Candidate Statement** Form will be provided at the issuance of the nomination paper.

1. Contents

- a. The statement may contain name, age and occupation of the candidate. You may enter this information at the top section of the statement. The occupation listed in this location does not have the same restrictions as the ballot designation.
- b. Background: The Candidate's Statement of Qualifications shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications expressed by the candidate. It may contain no more than **400 words**.
- c. No party affiliation: The candidate's statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate, nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.
- d. No mention of an opponent(s) allowed, by name, office, title or otherwise:
It shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.

The City Clerk shall NOT cause to be printed, posted on the internet, or circulated any statement that includes any reference prohibited by law. *EC 13308*

2. No photographs are permitted.

3. Format

The California Elections Code intends uniformity of appearance of the candidates' statements. By preparing a candidate statement in accordance with the guidelines, each statement will be printed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

a. Font

The statement will be printed in 8-point type in the Voter Information Pamphlet. Only the candidate's name, age, and occupation will be printed in the 10-point type.

b. Restrictions: The following **WILL NOT be permitted**:

- Handwritten Statements
- Copy from a fax machine
- **Bold** Type
- Extra exclamation points
- Multiple Punctuation
- Lists
- Stars, bullets, graphics
- *Italics*
- ALL CAP Letters
- Underlines
- Tables

c. Spacing

The spacing in the statement is to be single space and uniform and conform to the guidelines provided.

4. Filing Appointment: All statements must be submitted on or attached to the candidate statement form provided. The candidate statement submittal form must be signed.

- The original signed document, in hard copy, will be required to be submitted at the filing appointment.
- The same Final document in Word version must be emailed to the City Clerk clerkoffice@cosb.org on and before the filing meeting.
- The emailed Word version must match the hard copy exactly. If there are any discrepancies between the hard copy and the Word document, the hard copy will prevail.
- The paper shall be plain white (8 ½ x 11, or 8 ½ x 14 if on the candidate statement form).
- Margins, (left & right) NO LESS than ½ inch.
- A fixed pitch font such as Courier is recommended.

5. Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar

Check statement for errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Typographical errors will not be corrected. No responsibility or liability is assumed for error in spelling, punctuation, or grammar, because the statement

is entirely the candidate's responsibility. The City Clerk/Elections Official is not authorized to make any corrections to statements.

6. Typesetting

Statements that are not in compliance will be reformatted and set in uniform type by the San Diego County Registrar of Voters, as the City of Solana Beach has consolidated with the statewide election and will conform to its requirements. The City contracts the San Diego County Registrar of Voters to prepare the ballot for printing, therefore, the City complies with the County's requirements for typesetting. The elections official bears no responsibility for the correct typesetting of statements that must be reformatted under these circumstances.

Sample of Typesetting in Sample Ballot

JURISDICTION NAME IN CAPITAL LETTERS Division/District/Office No. in Upper & Lower Case	
CONNOR STARK Artist*	Age: ## (Optional)
<p>I am running for the governing board of the Washington Unified School District because I feel I can bring a balance to the board. I attended local schools, graduating from Washington High School in 1980. I am married and currently have two children attending schools in the district, have a private dental practice and oversee the daily operation and finances of our family-owned business.</p> <p>I own and operate my own small business, so I am well aware of the need to operate within a budget. With proper distribution of resources and educational materials, I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district.</p> <p>I am looking forward to serving you on the Washington Unified School District Governing Board. Thank you for your vote.</p>	
CS-999-9	SD 000-00

***Does not have to match ballot designation if one is provided on the Declaration of Candidacy.**

7. Word Count (EC Section 9)

Count the words in your statement. The total count must not exceed 400 words. The following are the guidelines specified for counting the number of words submitted on the candidate's statement whose content is limited by statute.

WORD COUNT GUIDELINES

(Elections Code Chapter 1, General Provisions, Section 9)

The following guidelines are used by the Registrar of Voters Office for counting words on candidate statements. The guidelines do not apply to ballot designations for candidates. If the text exceeds the specified 200-, 250- or 400-word limit, the author will be asked to delete words or change the text until the statement conforms to the requirements.

9. (a) Counting of words, for purposes of this code, shall be as follows:

- (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.
- (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.

(b) This section shall not apply to counting words for ballot designations under Section 13107.

Examples:

- All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word. A proper noun is a noun that designates a particular being or thing, does not take a limiting modifier, and is usually capitalized in English.

One Word	More than One Word
Solana Beach Solana Beach Chamber of Commerce Solana Beach City Hall Solana Beach Public Affairs Department Land Use Plan Marine Safety Center	<u>Solana Beach coastline</u> <u>City Hall</u> <u>Public Affairs Department</u>
ADU Solana Beach Municipal Code	<u>Accessory Dwelling Unit</u> <u>Municipal Code</u>
Coastal Rail Trail	<u>Coastal Rail Trail garden</u> <u>Coastal Rail Trail bike path</u>
Fletcher Cove Fletcher Cove Park	<u>Fletcher Cove tot lot</u>
San Elijo JPA Climate Action Commission	<u>San Elijo JPA Boardmember</u> <u>Climate Action Commission (CAC) Member</u>
La Colonia Skatepark	<u>Skatepark at La Colonia</u>
Harbaugh Seaside Trails	
Del Mar Fairgrounds Del Mar Fair San Diego County Fair	<u>Del Mar river mouth</u>
Highway 101 or HWY 101 Lomas Santa Fe S. Cedros Cedros Design District City of Kindness	<u>Design District</u> <u>Kindness City</u>

- Each abbreviation for a word, phrase or expression shall be counted as one word. Example: SANDAG, NCTD, CRT, shall be counted as one word.
- 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, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.

Examples: Self-employed, Covid-19, vice-president, year-end, well-managed, ex-military, inter-related, non-violent shall be counted as one word.

- Dates shall be counted as one word.

Examples:

11-5-24

November 5, 2024

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.

Examples:

"One" shall be counted as one word.

"100" shall be counted as one word.

"one hundred dollars" shall be counted as three words

8. *Translations*

All Voter Information Pamphlet text, including Candidate Statements, are translated into Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

D. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATEMENTS** *EC §13311*

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, candidates' statements filed pursuant to Elections Code §13307 shall remain confidential until the close of the nomination period for the office sought.

E. **STATEMENT WITHDRAWAL** *EC §13307(a)(3)*

The statement may be withdrawn, **but not changed**, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5:00 P.M. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. The nomination deadline is Friday, August 9, 2024. Any request for withdrawal of a candidate's statement must be in writing and signed by the candidate and received by the City Clerk by Monday, August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.