



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

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May 5, 2020

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #20085

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jana M. Lean
Chief, Elections Division

RE: Presidential General: County Local/Candidate Filing

In light of COVID-19 and the stay at home order issued by the Governor, several counties have inquired about county and local candidate filing that will take place during the summer for the November 2020 election. The purpose of this CCROV is to provide guidance and options for candidates and county elections officials to maintain health and safety during the candidate filing process.

Issuing Candidate Documents

Elections officials may issue candidate documents in person during available business hours or by appointment, via mail, via email, or via a website using an encrypted internet security protocol. If a candidate elects to receive the candidate documents via mail, email, or a website using an encrypted internet security protocol, to meet the requirements of Elections Code section 8028(b), the candidate must provide a written request to receive the documents in that manner.

Prior to issuing candidate documents, elections officials shall follow normal procedures and guidelines, such as verification of eligibility for the office sought and collecting the appropriate filing fee. The elections official shall determine the available method(s) for the candidate to submit the applicable filing fee for the office sought.

County and local election officials should provide information regarding these processes on their website and to any candidate which requests candidate documents.

Execution of Candidate Documents

Any documents that require an oath by the candidate may be executed in the presence of a notary, or in the alternative, in the office of the elections official

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during available business hours, by appointment, or via an online video conferencing service.

Receipt of Candidate Documents and Filing Deadlines

A candidate may electronically submit their completed documents to the elections official so that the elections official may begin the review and verification process as soon as is practicable. However, in order to be a qualified candidate for the office in which they seek, **the completed documents with original signatures must be received by the elections official by the close of the nomination period for that particular office.**

To submit the original documents, the candidate may submit those documents to the office of the elections official during available business hours, by appointment, in a drop box provided by the elections official, or via mail or other delivery service.

Reminder to Candidates

Elections officials must provide clear written guidance to candidates regarding the requirement of submitting the candidate documents with original signatures to the elections official by the official close of the nomination period. The candidate must acknowledge receipt of the written guidance in the manner provided by the elections official. A candidate who has elected to submit their candidate documents electronically, so the candidate filing process may begin, must be made aware that they must submit the original documents to the elections official in a manner that will ensure that those original documents are in the possession of the elections official prior to the close of the nomination period. Any candidate who fails to timely submit the candidate documents with original signatures by the close of the nomination period will not be included on the ballot for that office.

The Secretary of State's office will send a survey to county elections officials prior to the opening of candidate filing to learn what process each county will follow.

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