

Candidate's Statement Guidelines



The filing of a candidate's statement is optional. This must be filed the same time that the Declaration of Candidacy is (nomination paper) filed.

Each candidate may prepare a candidate's statement that may include the name, age, and occupation of the candidate and a brief description, of no more than **200 words**, of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate himself/herself. Candidate's Statement is subject to certain rules on format, word count, confidentiality, costs, submission/withdrawal, and minority language provisions.

The candidate's statements are published in the voter's sample ballot pamphlet sent to each registered voter.

The candidate's statements shall **not** include the party affiliation of the candidate, **nor** the membership or activity in any partisan political organizations (EC §13307).

Any candidate's statement shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. The elections official shall not cause to be printed or circulate any statement that the elections official determines is not so limited or that includes any reference prohibited (EC §13308).

When the statement is filed, a copy of the signed statement and the signed payment agreement will be given to the candidate.

Format:

Candidate's Statement must be submitted in WORD or on a flash drive and will be printed **exactly as submitted** (grammar and typographical errors will not be corrected). Candidates are advised to carefully check their statement for errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. See: "Candidate Statement Formatting Guidelines".

If the text exceeds the 200-word limit, the candidate must delete or change a sufficient number of words or sentences to meet the required word limit **before** the statement is filed. After the statement is filed, if the text exceeds the word

limit, the City Clerk shall delete a sufficient number of words, or sentences, to put it within the required limit. Other than formatting requirements, your statement will be printed as filed.

The scanning equipment used by the Registrar of Voters' office to produce camera ready copy for Sample Ballot Pamphlet printing has some limitations; therefore, the style of the Candidate's Statement of Qualifications must conform to the sample given.

Confidentiality:

The candidate must sign and date the statement before it is filled. All Candidates' Statements remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline. (EC §13311)

Copies of all Candidates' Statements will be available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office after the close of nominations. (EC §13313)

Word Count:

See: Word Count Standard for Candidate's Statement of Qualification (§ 9)

Cost:

Each candidate filing a statement is required to pay the total cost of printing, handling, translating and mailing the candidate's statements filed, including costs incurred as a result of complying with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended. The cost varies by election, district and by each city participating in the election. Each candidate that request to file a candidate's statement shall be required to pay a fixed non-refundable cost at the time of filing as a condition of having his/her statement included in the voter's pamphlet. The costs are as follows:

District 2: \$432.88

District 4: \$430.14

Additionally, according to the City's comprehensive fee schedule there is a candidate's filing fee of \$25.00 (non-refundable).

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to make any 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's pamphlet.

[See City Council Resolution 7040 regulating Candidates' Statements.]

Note: **Submission/Withdrawal**

The Candidate's Statement must be signed and dated by the candidate and must be filed at the time that the nomination paper is filed.

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 - August 7, 2020.

Minority Language Provisions:

Due to minority language provisions of the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Orange County Cities are required to provide election materials in Korean in addition to English. The materials covered by this Act include Candidates' Statements.

