

General FAQ's - Candidate Workshop

June 2, 2026

1. Why is the candidate filing deadline extended?

The candidate filing deadline is extended when the incumbent is eligible to run for re-election but chooses not to file. If the incumbent is ineligible to run or has been termed out, the filing deadline will not be extended.

2. Who should I contact with campaign ethics questions or concerns?

Complaints or concerns regarding ethics violations may be reported to either the [City Clerk's Office](#) or the [Ethics Commission](#).

3. Can a ballot designation be changed after filing nomination documents?

A ballot designation selected by a candidate cannot be changed after the final filing date for nomination documents, unless specifically requested by the elections official.

The elections official is required to maintain a copy of each candidate's ballot designation worksheet pursuant to [Elections Code Section 13107](#).

The ballot designation will remain the same for both the primary and general elections unless the candidate submits a written request for a different designation at least 98 days before the general election and is entitled to use the new designation at the time of the request.

In that case, a new ballot designation worksheet must be completed.

Additional information is available on the Secretary of State's website.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/ballot-designations>

4. Where do I pick up my nomination packet (manila folder)?

Nomination packets may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall – 411 W. Ocean Blvd., Lobby Level, Window 12, where a member of the City Clerk's staff will assist you.

5. Is a ballot designation required?

No, a ballot designation is optional. If a candidate does not request a ballot designation, no designation will appear on the ballot.

Additional information is available on the Secretary of State's website.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/ballot-designations>

6. What are acceptable and unacceptable examples of ballot designations?

Acceptable Examples: Teacher, Accountant, Homemaker, Mother, Father, Businessperson, Councilmember, Incumbent.

Unacceptable Examples: Veteran, Philanthropist, Wife, Husband, Advocate, Taxpayer, Activist, Patriot.

All ballot designations are subject to review and approval by the Attorney's Office and Elections Official.

7. What if you have more than one occupation?

Multiple occupations are allowed, limited to three words maximum. You must use your current, principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

Additional information is available on the Secretary of State's website.

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/elections/ballot-designations>

8. Does the nomination information also apply to School Board and/or City College Trustee races?

No. School Board and City College Trustee races are administered by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. For additional information, candidates should contact the Registrar's Office at (562) 462-2339 or visit LAVOTE.gov.

9. Do signatures need to be within the district in which you're running?

Yes, if you are running for a specific district election all signatures need to be from residents within that district.

10. Is the candidate statement filed along with nomination papers/packet?

Yes, the candidate statement should be filed with the entire nomination packet.

11. Are candidate statements typically written in first or third person?

Either format is acceptable and is at the discretion of the candidate.

12. If words are stricken from a candidate statement, will the candidate be consulted first?

Yes. No changes will be made without first consulting the candidate.

13. When do candidates make payments for nomination and candidate statement?

Payment is due at the time the nomination packet is filed.

14. Can a business place a campaign sign in their window?

Yes, a business can place signs in their windows.

15. Can an individual make a contribution both personally and through their business?

No. Contributions from an individual and their business are considered a single contributor and may not be made separately.

16. Please provide a brief description of in-kind contributions.

An in-kind contribution is a non-monetary good or service provided at no cost or at less than the usual charge. This also includes a situation where a third party pays for goods or services on someone else's behalf. Examples include t-shirts, hats, stickers, pencils, food, or artwork. Additional information is available in the [Campaign Disclosure Manual 4, Chapter 4 - Contributions](#).

17. As a follow up to in-kind donations, is this the same, for instance, food and drink for a fundraising at someone's house.

Yes. Food and beverages provided for a fundraiser are considered an in-kind contributions.

18. Is there a limit to in-kind contributions?

Yes. In-kind contributions are subject to the same contribution limits as monetary contributions.

19. How do you distinguish a voter's volunteered time and talents from an in-kind contribution?

The Fair Political Practice Commission provides guidance on what constitutes volunteer activity versus and in-kind contribution. Specific details can be found in the [Campaign Disclosure Manual 4, Chapter 4 - Contributions](#).

20. Can a married couple with a joint account write a single \$800 check on behalf of both individuals if they do not reside within the jurisdiction and therefore will not qualify for the City's matching funds criteria?

Yes, subject to reporting rules. Individuals (including spouses) may make separate contributions from a joint checking account. For reporting purposes:

- If one individual signs the check, the full amount is attributed to that signer.
- If two or more individuals sign the check, the contribution is divided equally among the signers unless an accompanying written document specifies a different allocation.
- If the check is signed by someone not listed on the account (e.g., an accountant), it must be accompanied by documentation signed by at least one account holder indicating whom the check is to be attributed.

21. Is ballot harvesting legal in Long Beach?

No. Ballot harvesting is not permitted. However, a vote-by-mail ballot may be returned by a designated person, provided that person is not compensated for ballots returned.

22. In previous elections incumbents have used City events for campaigning. To whom should this be reported?

Any concerns should be reported to all applicable agencies: the [Fair Political Practices Commission](#), [Long Beach Ethics Commission](#), and the [City Clerk's Office](#).

23. Can campaign events be held in City Parks?

Yes, with limitations. While [Government Code 8314](#) and the [Long Beach Ethics Handbook](#) restrict certain uses of City-owned properties, candidates may use the City's public parks and community centers for political or campaign-related activities, including fundraising, consistent with applicable rules and permitting requirements.

24. Can we collect contributions related to the General Municipal Election prior to the Election being called?

No. Contributions may only be collected after an election is declared and a candidate qualifies.

25. Can a person experiencing homelessness run for office?

Yes. Experiencing homelessness does not disqualify a person from running for office. The qualifications to run for office require that a registered voter live in the jurisdiction at least 30 days prior to the end of the nomination period. For voter registration purposes, a person experiencing homelessness may register using cross streets, along with the city and zip code within the jurisdiction, or a church or shelter address, with permission.