

Candidate Handbook & Resource Guide



Gubernatorial General Election
November 2, 2010

Karen D. Adams, CPA
County Clerk-Registrar of Voters





TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES	1
CONTACT INFORMATION	2
QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS	3
NOMINATION DOCUMENTS & FILING PROCEDURES	4
BALLOT DESIGNATION REQUIREMENTS	5
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS	6
ELECTION CALENDAR	7-9
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	10
CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE INFORMATION	11
VOTE BY MAIL INFORMATION	12
MASS MAILING	13
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING & SIMULATED BALLOTS	14
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING	15
ELECTIONEERING	16

NOTICE

This Candidate Handbook & Resource Guide is provided to assist you in your candidacy. It includes a calendar of events and summary of provisions and filing requirements. It is not intended to provide legal advice and is for general guidance only.

Please note that it is not within the purview of this office to determine whether a candidate meets the requirements for holding office. Individuals with questions concerning their own or other candidate's qualifications, or other related matters should seek legal counsel.

Candidates and others using this Handbook & Resource Guide must bear full responsibility to make their own determinations as to all legal standards.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES

FILING OFFICER FOR DISCLOSURES:

MERCED COUNTY CLERK
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
2222 M ST, ROOM 14
MERCED, CA 95340
209-385-7541
209-385-7387-FAX
www.mercedelections.org

FILING OFFICER FOR DISCLOSURES FOR CITY CANDIDATES:

CITY OF ATWATER
750 BELLEVUE RD
ATWATER, CA 95301
209-357-6300
209-357-6302-FAX
www.atwater.org

CITY OF DOS PALOS
1546 GOLDEN GATE AVE
DOS PALOS, CA 93620
209-392-2174
209-392-2801- FAX

CITY OF GUSTINE
682 3RD AVE
GUSTINE, CA 95322
209-854-6471
209-854-2840-FAX
www.cityofgustine.com

CITY OF LIVINGSTON
1416 C ST
LIVINGSTON, CA 95334
209-394-8041
209-394-1751-FAX
www.livingstoncity.com

CITY OF LOS BANOS
520 J ST
LOS BANOS, CA 93635
209-827-7000
209-827-7010
www.losbanos.org

OTHER RESOURCES:

SECRETARY OF STATE
1500 11TH ST, 5TH FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916-657-2166
916-653-3214-FAX
www.sos.ca.gov

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
428 J ST, SUITE 620
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
866-275-3772
916-322-6440-FAX
www.fppc.ca.gov

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

Unless otherwise specifically provided, no person is eligible to be elected or appointed to an elective office unless that person is a registered voter and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time that nomination papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment. Election Code §201

SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER: Any person, regardless of sex, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state, a resident of the school district, a registered voter, and who is not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office, is eligible to be elected or appointed as a member of a governing board of a school district without further qualifications. An employee of a school district may not be sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of that school district's governing board unless and until he or she resigns as an employee. If the employee does not resign, the employment will automatically terminate upon being sworn into office. Education code §§35107

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION GOVERNING MEMBERS: Any registered voter is eligible to be a member of the county board of education except the county superintendent of schools, any member of his staff, or any employee of a school district. Each member of the board shall be an elector of the trustee area which he represents and shall be elected by the electors of the trustee area. Education Code: §§1000. 1006

SPECIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER: A candidate must be a resident and qualified elector of the district. For additional requirements consult the specific code or enabling legislation that regulates the district. California Codes can be accessed at www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html.

CITY OFFICES: "A person is not eligible to hold office as councilmember, mayor, city clerk or city treasurer unless he or she is at the time of assuming the office an elector of the city and was a registered voter of the city at the time nomination papers are issued to the candidate as proved for in Section 10227 of the Election Code." Government Code §36502 (a)

HOLDING TWO OFFICES – ALL OFFICES

See Government Code Section 1099 which contains the provisions prohibiting the holding of incompatible, multiple offices.

NOMINATION DOCUMENTS & FILING PROCEDURES

WHEN AND WHERE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

“Any qualified voter in the city or district may sign as many nomination papers as there are positions to be elected. Candidates shall file their nomination papers with the county elections official of the county, not more than 113 nor less than 88 days before the day of election.”

All forms required for nomination and election to all federal, state, judicial, and county offices shall be furnished by the county elections official. At the time of issuing these forms the county election official shall:

- 1) Type or print on the forms the name of the candidate and the office for which he or she is a candidate.
- 2) Imprint a stamp on the form which reads “Official Filing Form”, and
- 3) Affix his or her signature on the form.

The forms shall be distributed to all candidates applying for them. The county elections official shall not require a candidate to sign, file or sign and file, a declaration of candidacy as a condition of receiving nomination papers. Elections Code §§8020. 8041. and 8101.

Notwithstanding section §8020 or any other provision of the law, if nomination documents for an incumbent officer of a county are not delivered by 5 p.m. on the 88th day before the election, any person other than the person who was the incumbent on the 88th day shall have until 5 p.m. on the 83rd day before the election to file nomination documents for the elective office.

BALLOT DESIGNATION REQUIREMENTS

No title or degree shall appear on the same line on a ballot as a candidate's name, either before or after the name, in the case of any election to office.

Immediately under the name of each candidate, and not separated from the name by any line, may appear at the option of the candidate only one of the following designations.

- 1) Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which he or she was elected by vote of the people, or to which he or she was appointed, in the case of a superior court judge.
- 2) The word "incumbent" if the candidate is a candidate for the same office which they hold at the time of filing their nomination/declaration of candidacy papers.
- 3) No more than three words designating either the current principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate, or the principal professions, vocations, or occupations of the candidate during the previous calendar year.
- 4) The phrase, "appointed incumbent" if the candidate holds an office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office.

No Election Official shall accept a designation of which any of the following would be true:

- 1) It would mislead the voter.
- 2) It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.
- 3) It abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies.
- 4) It uses a word or prefix, such as "former" or "ex-", which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the word "retired."
- 5) It uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.
- 6) It uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
- 7) It refers to any activity prohibited by law.

Ballot designation of "community volunteer" is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) A candidate's community volunteer activities constitute his or her principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- 2) A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation or occupation.
- 3) A candidate may not use the designation of "Community volunteer" in combination with any other principal profession, vocation, or occupation designation.

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

Local Candidates

Each candidate for nonpartisan elective office may prepare a candidate's statement of qualifications. This statement is incorporated into the sample ballot, at the candidate's expense, and will be mailed to all registered voters in the district eligible to vote for that particular candidate. Election Code § 13307 governs the preparation and form of the candidate statement. Each statement is to be 200 words or less (250) for State Legislative Offices.

Candidate Statement General Information

Time Period: The filing period for the local non-partisan candidate's statement of qualifications is July 12th, – August 6th, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. For offices that require nomination papers the candidate statement must be filed at the time the nomination papers are filed. Once filed the statements cannot be changed.

Cost: The fee for a candidate's statement of qualifications varies by district and the estimated number of registered voters in that district. You will be provided an estimated fee during the nomination period. At that time, fees will be based upon the most current voter registration data. Please make your check payable to, "Merced County Clerk."

Withdrawal: Any candidate may withdraw their candidate statement of qualifications, either in person or by a signed statement of withdrawal, no later than 5:00 p.m. of the next business day following the close of nominations. Election Code §13307

Confidentiality: Candidate's statements of qualifications are not available for public examination until after the close of the nomination period.



General Election Calendar
Tuesday, November 2, 2010

(All code references are to Election Code unless otherwise stated)

<p align="center">Prior to a Candidate Soliciting or Accepting Contributions for Campaign Purposes</p>	<p>All candidates must file a FPPC Form 501 - Candidate Intention Statement Form 501 must be filed with the appropriate filing officer before soliciting or accepting contributions to their campaign. Gov Code 85200</p>
<p align="center">June 28 – July 12 (E-127 to E-113)</p>	<p>Notice of Election Cities consolidating with the November General Election will publish the Notice of Election stating the date of the election, polling hours and any offices to be filled and / or measures to be voted on. EC 12101, 12111</p>
<p align="center">July 2 (E-123)</p>	<p>Specifications of the Election Order School boards to deliver this document to the County Superintendent of Schools and the county election official. ED Code 5322</p>
<p align="center">July 5*</p>	<p align="center">County Holiday – Fourth of July</p>
<p align="center">July 5 – August 4 (E-120 to E-90)</p>	<p>Notice of Election This notice shall be published between these dates and shall contain the date of the general district election, name of the offices for which candidates may file, state the qualifications required for each office, location where declaration of candidacy forms will be available, where the forms are to be filed and the deadline for filing these forms. EC 12112</p>
<p align="center">July 12 – August 6 - 5 p.m. (E-113 to E-88)</p>	<p>Candidate Nomination Period Candidates (including incumbents seeking re-election to the same office) must file nomination documents with the county election official during this period. Candidate Statements of Qualifications are due during this period. EC 10220, 10510</p>
<p align="center">July 27 (E-98)</p>	<p>Ballot Designation Change Deadline Last day that a candidate can submit a written request to change their ballot designation as used in the primary election. EC 13107(e)</p>
<p align="center">August 2 (E-92)</p>	<p>FPPC Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due For period covering 1/1/10 – 6/30/10. Gov Code 84200, 84218</p>
<p align="center">August 6 - 5 p.m. (E-88)</p>	<p>Close of Regular Candidate Nomination Period Candidate nomination documents are due. Incumbents who wish to file as a candidate for their own office must file by this date. Last day to withdraw declaration of candidacy papers except when there is an extension to that office. Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700) are due. EC 8020, GC 87200</p>
<p align="center">August 6 - 5 p.m. (E-88)</p>	<p>Last Day for Governing Bodies to Submit a Measure Resolution Measures are to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors requesting consolidation with this election. EC 9401 & 10403</p>

<p>August 6 - 5 p.m. (E-88)</p>	<p>Deadlines for Filing Arguments Deadlines will be determined by the election official when the resolution is submitted and filing deadlines will be published in a newspaper of general circulation (city measures will be handled by the city clerk). EC 10400, 10510, 13307, ED Code 5322</p>
<p>August 6 – October 26 (E-88 through E-7)</p>	<p>Publication of Nominees City Election Official shall publish a list of nominees, in a newspaper of general circulation of the city. EC 12110</p>
<p>August 7 -August 11 - 5 p.m. (E-87 to E-83)</p>	<p>Extension of Candidate Nomination Period Extension period for anyone other than the incumbent if the incumbent did not file by August 11. This provision does not apply if there is no incumbent to be re-elected. EC 10225, 10407,10516,10603</p>
<p>August 12 11 a.m. (E-82)</p>	<p>Randomized Alphabet Drawing Conducted by the Secretary of State to determine candidate name order as it will appear on the ballot. The county election official will also hold a drawing at 11:00 a.m. for multi-county legislative offices. EC 13112</p>
<p>September 7</p>	<p>County Holiday – Labor Day</p>
<p>September 3 (E-60)</p>	<p>Special Vote By Mail Ballot Requests First day the county elections official may process applications for special vote by mail ballot requests. (Military, Overseas and 60-day voters) EC 300(b), 3103</p>
<p>September 23 – October 12 (E-40 to E-21)</p>	<p>Sample Ballot Pamphlets Pamphlets are mailed to each registered voter during this time. EC 13300</p>
<p>October 5 (E-28)</p>	<p>1st FPPC Pre-election Campaign Statement Due For the period covering 7/1/10 – 9/30/10. Gov Code 84200.7(b)(1)</p>

<p>October 4 – October 26 (E-29 to E-7)</p>	<p>Regular Vote by Mail Ballot Mailing and processing period for Vote by Mail ballots. Ballots will be available at the county elections office. EC 3001</p>
<p>October 17 – November 1 (E-16 to E-1)</p>	<p>Late Contributions and Independent Expenditures of \$1000 or More Within 24 hours of the transaction, FPPC Form 496 or 497 must be filed with the appropriate filing officer. Gov Code 84200.7(b)(1)</p>
<p>October 18 (E-15)</p>	<p>15-Day Close Last day to register for this election. Postmarks, DMV and personal delivery to the election office are acceptable. EC 2107</p>
<p>October 21 (E-12)</p>	<p>2nd FPPC Pre-election Campaign Statement Due For the period covering 10/01/10 – 10/16/10. Gov Code 84200.7(b)(2)</p>
<p>October 27 – November 2 (E-6 to E)</p>	<p>Special 7- day Ballots Available Available at the county election official's office for those voters unable to vote at the polls on election day. EC 3021</p>
<p>November 2 (E)</p>	<p>ELECTION DAY Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. EC 1000, 14212</p>
<p>November 4 –November 30 (E+2 to E+28)</p>	<p>Canvass of the Vote The official canvass of precinct returns shall commence and be completed during this time. The county election official shall prepare a certified statement of the results and submit it to the governing bodies involved with this election. EC15301, 15372</p>
	<p>*E-date falls on a weekend or holiday; moved to next business day. EC 15</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CANDIDATES & COMMITTEES)

Q: Is a candidate who ran in a primary election required to file another Form 501 and open a separate bank account for the general (or run-off) election?

A: No, the Form 501 filed and bank account opened for the primary election cover both elections.

Q: Must an incumbent file a Form 501 if he or she is running for re-election to the same position?

A: Yes, the incumbent must file an initial Form 501. The Form 410 (Statement of Organization) must also be amended to indicate whether the incumbent is re-designating an existing bank account or establishing a new bank account.

Q: If a person buys a ticket to a campaign fundraiser, is the entire amount reported as a contribution?

A: Yes, typically the face value of the ticket is reported as a contribution. The benefit the attendee receives at the event (i.e. food, entertainment) is not subtracted from the amount of the ticket price.

Q: How are donated items for an auction or garage sale, as well as the proceeds of the sale, reported?

A: The fair market value of items donated for sale at an auction or garage sale must be reported as non-monetary contributions on Schedule C. Non-monetary contributions of \$100 or more received during the calendar year must be itemized.

If the person who purchases the item pays fair market value, the proceeds are not "contributions" because the purchaser has received full and adequate consideration for the payment. These amounts should be reported as "Miscellaneous Increases to Cash" on Schedule I. If the purchaser pays more than the fair market value, the amount over the fair market value is a contribution that must be reported on Schedule A.

Q: May a candidate be reimbursed for the use of a personal vehicle?

A: An officeholder, candidate, a member of his/her immediate family, the staff of a committee, or the staff of an elected officer's governmental agency may be reimbursed for use of a personal vehicle only if vehicle use directly relates to a political, legislative, or governmental purpose. The purpose and mileage must be documented in a manner approved by the Internal Revenue Service in connection with deductible mileage expenses. In addition, reimbursement cannot be made at a rate higher than allowed under Internal Revenue Code Section 162.

Q: If a candidate uses his/her personal telephone for campaign purposes, how should the telephone bills be paid?

A: Candidates that use personal telephones for campaign calls must pay the campaign portion of the bill with campaign funds. The other portion must be paid with personal funds.

Campaign Disclosure Information

The Political Reform Act requires candidates to file campaign statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made. The statutory requirements of the Political Reform Act are contained in Sections 81000-91015 of the California Government Code and enforced by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

You may contact the Technical Assistance Division of the Fair Political Practices Commission at the following: **428 J Street, Suite 450, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 322-5660, 1 (800) ASK-FPPC; www.fppc.ca.gov**

Summary of Disclosure Forms

Form Name	Description
Form 501 Candidate Intention	Basic form that must be filed prior to soliciting or receiving any contributions.
Form 410 Statement of Organization	To organize a committee and obtain a Committee ID Number from the state. Form 410 must be filed within 10 days of receiving \$1,000 in contributions.
Form 460 Recipient Committee Campaign Statement	For use by candidate or officeholder who has formed a controlled committee, or who has raised or spent or will raise or spend \$1,000 or more during a calendar year in connection with an election to office, or holding office.
Form 465 Supplemental Independent Expenditure Statement	Officeholders, candidates, and committees that make independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year to support or oppose a single candidate, a single measure, or the qualification of a single measure must file Form 465. (See FPPC web site for Proposition 34 prohibitions on independent expenditures and contributions to others committees.)
Form 470 Candidate and Office Holder Campaign Statement Short Form	This form is used by candidates who do not have controlled committee, and do not anticipate raising or spending \$1,000 or more in a calendar year. If Form 470 is filed on or before the deadline for the first pre-election campaign statement, no additional campaign statement need be filed in connection with the election so long as total receipts/expenditures remain less than \$1,000.
Form 470 Supplement	A candidate who filed Form 470 in connection with an election and subsequently receives contributions or makes expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more is required to file this form.
Form 496 Late Independent Expenditure Report	Any committee that makes independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose a single candidate or single ballot measure during the 16 days immediately prior to the election in which the candidate or measure is being voted must file a report within 24 hours of the expenditure.
Form 497 Late Contribution Report	Any committee that makes or receives a late contribution totaling \$1,000 or more from a single source during the 16 days immediately prior to the election in which the candidate or measure is to be voted must file a report within 24 hours of the time the contribution was made or received.

Filing Requirements

In addition to the election-specific filing listed, all candidates with qualified committees are required to file semi-annual campaign statements no later than July 31st and January 31st.

Tax ID Numbers

Some banks may require a committee to obtain a Tax ID Number before opening an account. Please contact the Internal Revenue Service for further detail. You may apply for ID Number using IRS Form SS-4.

Please note that the Committee ID Numbers issued to you by the Secretary of States is separate and distinct from the Tax ID Number you may obtain from the IRS. The two numbers are not interchangeable.

VOTE BY MAIL (ABSENTEE VOTING) INFORMATION

Uniform Application for Vote by Mail Ballot Election code §§3306, 3307, 3007.5

It is recommended that any vote by mail ballot application intended for mass reproduction be approved by the County Clerk prior to its distribution to ensure compliance with current law.

1. Election Code §3007 requires that any individual, group, or organization distributing applications for vote by ballots must use the format for this application which has been approved by the Secretary of State. Election Code §§3006, 3007, 3007.5 & 18402
2. Election Code §3006 specifically permits preprinting only the voter's name, residence address, date of birth, and the name and date of the election for which the application is being made.
3. The portion of the application which asks the address to which the voter wishes the absentee ballot to be mailed must, if different from the voter's residence address, be completed by the voter. The mailing address may not be the address of any political party, candidate, or political campaign headquarters.
4. The application shall provide the voters with information concerning the process for establishing permanent absentee voter status. Election Code §3006
5. An application containing preprinted information must contain a conspicuously placed notice stating that: **"You have the legal right to mail or deliver this application directly to the local elections official of the county where you reside."**
6. Only the **voter** may sign the application.
7. If applications are distributed through the mail, they must not be forwarded.
8. Bar-coded affidavit or voter identification numbers on applications must meet approval of the County Clerk prior to distribution. To avoid possible problems, candidates and committees are advised to obtain voter information directly from the County Clerk.
9. Applications for vote by mail ballots must be made in writing and be received by the County Clerk no later than the 7th day before the election.

Candidates and committees may receive applications for absentee ballots. Applications must be submitted to the County Clerk **within 72 hours of receipt**. Candidates and committees may **not** collect, receive or handle voted mail-in ballots.

Applications for vote by mail ballots are available on the Merced County's web site www.mercedelections.org

DEFINITION OF “MASS MAILING”

“Mass Mailing” means over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail, but does not include a form letter or other mail which is sent in response to an unsolicited request, letter or other inquiry. (Gov. Code §820410.5)

MASS MAILING

The sender of a mass mailing is the candidate or committee who pays for the largest portion of the mailing. The sender must be identified by name, address, and city on the outside of the mailing and on at least on insert. If the sender of the mass mailing is a single officeholder, candidate, or committee, the identification need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail. If the sender is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee must also be included. A committee may use a post office box if its street address is a matter of record with the Secretary of State. It is not necessary to include the committee’s identification number or the name of a committee treasurer or printer on the mailing.

Type size must be at least six points, printed in a color or typeface that contrasts with the background.

If two or more officeholders, candidates, or committees pay an equal share of the costs of the mailing, at least one of them must be identified on the outside of the mailing and all of them must be identified on the inside.

In the case of a mass mailing paid for by one officeholder, candidate or committee on behalf of another candidate or committee (i.e. mass mailings that are in-kind contributions), the office holder, candidate or committee that pays for the mailing must be identified as the sender of the mailing. For each mass mailing sent by or on behalf of the committee, the following records must be retained:

- The date of the mailing
- The number of pieces mailed
- The method of postage used

An original sample of each mass mailing must also be retained.

IDENTIFICATION OF SENDERS OF A “SLATE MAILER”

A “slate mailer” is a mass mailing (more than 200 substantially similar pieces of mail sent in a calendar month) which supports or opposes a total of four or more candidates or ballot measures. Identification may be made either in the manner provided for mass mailings with more than one sender, or by identifying the person who is responsible for the mailing on the outside, and by indicating all candidates and committees who have paid for the mailer on the inside, whether by an asterisk or by listing their names.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

Paid Political Requirements – Any paid political advertisement which refers to an election or candidate for state or local office and which is contained in or distributed with a newspaper must say “Paid Political Advertisement” in type at least one half the size type in the advertisement or 10 point roman type, whichever is larger. Such words shall be set apart from any other printed matter.

As used in this section “Paid Political Advertisement” shall mean and shall be limited to published statements paid for by advertisers for purpose of supporting or defeating any person who has filed for an elective state or local office.

SIMULATED BALLOT

- 1) Every simulated ballot or simulated sample ballot shall bear on each surface page, in lettering at least one half as large as the type or lettering of the statement or words, or in 10 point roman type, whichever is larger, in a printed or drawn box and set apart from any other printed matter, the following statement:

NOTICE TO VOTERS

(Required by Law)

This is not an official ballot or an official sample ballot prepared by the County Clerk, Registrar of Voters, or The Secretary of State

This is an unofficial, marked ballot prepared by:

(Insert name and address of the person or organization responsible for preparation thereof)

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any such notice in any editorial or other statement appearing in a regularly published newspaper or magazine other than a paid political advertisement.

- 2) No such simulated ballot or simulated sample ballot shall bear any official seal or insignia of any public entity, nor shall any such seal or insignia appear upon the envelope in which it is mailed or otherwise delivered.
- 3) The Superior Court, in any case brought before it by any registered voter, may issue a temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction against the publication, printing, circulation, posting, or distribution of any matter in violation of this section, and all cases of this nature shall be in a preferred position for purpose of trial and appeal, so as to assure the speedy disposition thereof. (EC §§20009, 18301)

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING: POLITICAL SIGNS (INCLUDING PLACARDS AND POSTERS)

Outdoor Temporary Political Signs

Nothing in this chapter, including, but not limited to, § 5405, shall prohibit the placing of temporary political signs, unless a federal agency determines that such placement would violate federal regulations. However, no such sign shall be placed within the right-of-way of any highway or within 660 feet of the edge of and visible from the right-of-way of a landscaped freeway.

A temporary political sign is a sign which:

- (a) Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
- (b) Is placed not sooner than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after that election.
- (c) Is no larger than 32 square feet.
- (d) Has had a statement of responsibility filed with the department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the temporary political sign and who will reimburse the department for any cost incurred to remove it. **B. & P. Code § 5405.3**

The State agency responsible for administering outdoor advertising laws including those for political signs is:

STATE OFFICE

Department of Transportation

Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001
(916) 654-6473 Public
(916) 651-9359 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE

Department of Transportation

Division of Traffic Operations
Central California
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Joel Ibarra

(916) 651-1254
(916) 764-0942 FAX

ELECTIONEERING

No person, on Election Day, or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, shall, within 100 feet of a polling place or an elections official's office:

- a) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition.
- b) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking his or her ballot.
- c) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his or her qualifications except as provided in Election Code §14240.
- d) Do any electioneering.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

ELECTIONEERING DURING ABSENTEE VOTING

- a) No candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of an absentee voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he or she knows the absentee voter is voting.
- b) Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by Election Code §18370, or by any other provision of law.