

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT

A Candidate Statement is information, provided by the candidate, concerning his or her education and qualifications. This is optional for the candidate. If provided, it will be printed in the Voter's Pamphlet section of the Fresno County Voter Information Guide. If a candidate chooses not to file a statement, they must sign a declaration stating this.

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Candidate Statement to be printed in the Voter's Pamphlet portion of the Fresno County Voter Information Guide. U.S. Representative candidates who choose to keep their campaign spending under specific dollar limits may submit a Candidate Statement.

A Candidate Statement with payment is due at the time Nomination Signatures are filed. If no nomination signatures are required, it is due by the close of candidate filing.

## GENERAL PROCEDURE

If a candidate wishes to submit a candidate statement, they must adhere to the following procedure:

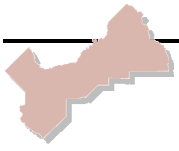
### 1. Provide an electronic copy of the statement to the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

A candidate statement must be provided electronically by the candidate to our office prior to the candidate filing their Nomination Signatures. This should be done by EMAIL, sending the document to [clerk-elections@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:clerk-elections@fresnocountyca.gov). The candidate statement should be in Microsoft WORD format. Hand written statements or hand written edits to statements will not be accepted.

### 2. Counting Words

Once the candidate is in the office and ready to file the candidate statement, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters will print out a copy of the document received. They will then perform a word count (see the "Word Count" section in the guide). If the word count is above the maximum allowed, the statement will not be accepted as filed. The maximum allowed for U.S. Representative candidates who choose to keep their campaign spending under a specified limit, is 250 words.

E.C. §§13307(a), 13307.5, G.C. §85601



### **3. Pay the Cost Estimate**

If the candidate statement submitted is below or meets the maximum word count, the candidate must pay the cost estimate at the time the candidate statement is submitted. The check should be made out to Fresno County Clerk.

Candidate statements are printed at the expense of the candidate. Candidates are required to prepay the estimated cost and will either be billed for the additional cost or refunded any overpayment after the election when actual costs are known. In the event of underpayment, candidates may be required to pay the balance of the cost incurred by the County, billed after the election. In the event of overpayment, Fresno County shall prorate the excess amount among the candidates for each race and refund the excess amount paid within 30 days of the election.

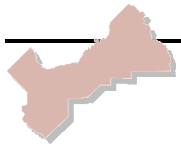
Estimated costs for candidate statements are based on the total costs of printing, handling, translating and mailing the candidate statement, including costs incurred as a result of complying with the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Fresno County is required to print all candidate statements in English and Spanish. Each candidate filing a statement is required to pay their pro rata share as a condition of having the statement included in the County Voter Information Guide.

### **4. Sign Declaration and File the Candidate Statement**

Once the estimated cost is paid, the Elections Official will accept the statement for filing. When filing, the candidate must sign a declaration executed under penalty of perjury, declaring that the information contained therein is true and correct.

Statements shall be filed with the county elections official when nomination papers are returned for filing, or in the case of an election for which nomination papers are not required, no later than the 88th day prior to the election.

Candidates are responsible for proofreading their own statement. The statement will be printed exactly as provided electronically.. This office will not correct any misspellings or errors in grammar or punctuation. After filing by the deadline, the statement can be withdrawn, but not changed. The last day to withdraw a candidate statement is the first business day after the close of filing.



## GENERAL FORMAT

Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Paragraphs should be indented and single-spaced, with no line spacing between paragraphs. NOTE: The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters may need to make adjustments to the candidate statement for space requirements in the county voter information guide. The statement may include the candidate's age, occupation, and a brief description of the candidate's education and qualifications.

### **Header**

In the header of the statement a candidate must state their name, and optionally may place their age and occupation. This is not included in the word count. Occupation is not restricted by ballot designation limitations; however, the occupation may not exceed 7 words in length.

### **Description of Education, Qualifications, and Personal Background**

The body of the candidate statement is a description of the candidate's education, personal background and qualifications. This section is limited by the word count (see below).

Statements must be written in the first person. For example:

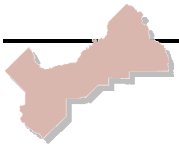
- "I am running..."
- "I went to....."
- "I believe...."

The statement cannot be written in 3rd person, quote other persons, and shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities. For example:

- "She is running..."
- "Jane Doe is running..."
- "My opponent is....."

### **Formatting Not Permitted**

- Extra indentations
- Any bold
- Underlining of words
- Italics
- Graphics
- Extra punctuation
- Capitalized words for added emphasis
- Bullets of any kind



GENERAL GUIDELINES

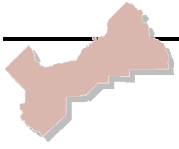
Party Affiliation

Statements shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate nor membership or activity in partisan political organizations.

E.C. §13307

Word Count Standards

Type	Description	Example
<b>PUNCTUATION MARKS</b>	Punctuation marks are not counted. However, symbols such as “&” (and), and “#” (number/pound) are not considered punctuation and each symbol is counted as one (1) word.	“ ” “ ” “ ” , , , ,
<b>ALL PROPER NOUNS</b>	All proper nouns, including the names of individuals, things, and Geographical names (requiring a defined jurisdiction) are counted as one (1) word.	"City of San Joaquin", "City and County of San Francisco", "George Washington"
<b>ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS</b>	Acronyms or abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression are counted as one (1) word.	CSUF, PTA, UCSF, U.S.M.C.
<b>HYPHENATED WORDS</b>	Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the U.S. at any time within the last 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election are counted as one (1) word. Be aware that many word processing programs will count a hyphenated word as one word even if it does not fit these criteria.	Attorney-at-law, full-time (as an adjective), in-law
<b>NUMERIC COMBINATIONS</b>	Numeric combinations will be counted as one (1) word.  Numeric combinations consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as multiple words.	15000, 13 1/2, 5%, 06/01/1995, \$200,000  Six %, July 4, 2012, December Twenty-Fifth, \$15 million
<b>TELEPHONE and FAX NUMBERS</b>	Telephone and fax numbers are counted as (1) word.	(559)600-8683, 1-800-345-VOTE
<b>EMAIL ADDRESSES and WEBSITES</b>	Email addresses and websites are counted as (1) word.	www.co.fresno.ca.us/elections, myemail@co.fresno.ca.us



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### **Order of Appearance in the Voter Pamphlet**

Statements will be printed in random order unless repositioned due to space considerations. Statements do not rotate.

### **Confidentiality**

Statements shall remain confidential until the expiration of the filing deadline for nomination papers for the office. Statements may be withdrawn, but not changed (except as specifically required by the elections official), during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5 p.m. of the next working day after the close of nomination period.

E.C. §13307(a)(3)

### **Public Examination**

After the deadline for filing nomination papers, anyone may examine any candidate statements and may purchase copies thereof.

During a 10-calendar day period commencing the day after the close of nomination, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the material in a candidate's statement to be amended or deleted.

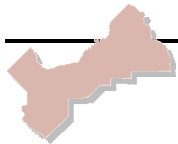
E.C. §13313(b)(1)

### **Liability**

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 Guide.

Any candidate who knowingly makes a false statement of material fact in a candidate statement prepared pursuant to Elections Code Section 11327 or 13307, with the intent to mislead the voters in connection with his or her campaign for nomination of election to a nonpartisan office is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

EC §18351



SAMPLE CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Shown below is a sample of a Candidate's Statement form. The upper portion stating the contest, name, age, and occupation is not included in the word count. The statement shown below has been typed, in upper and lower case, indented paragraph form.

Printed Candidate's Statement ▶ This example illustrates the candidate's statement as it will be printed in the County Voter Information Guide. All statements are printed in "indented paragraph" style.

\* Occupation and Age are optional.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: 32\*

Occupation: Businesswoman\*

Education and Qualifications: I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the Fresno area with my family still farming, I can appreciate the concerns of the environmentalist. On the other hand, having been in business since my undergraduate days at college and with my experience in the rental and real estate fields, I appreciate the housing requirements of our community. As a recent student, I understand their needs for a variety of housing choices and their frustration with high rental costs. I tend towards moderation and a real balancing of the competing segments of the community. I encourage differing viewpoints rather than the them and us concept.

I advocate a program to protect our neighborhoods from increasing overcrowding and visual blight. I support a shopping center in the city and would insist on a plan to encourage the commercial enterprises that complement our shopping needs. Our council should actively consider subsidized housing for senior citizens and perhaps others, but with implementation only after voter approval of a specific program.