

# General FAQ - Candidate Workshop

November 13, 2023

## **1. Why would the candidate filing deadline be extended?**

The candidate filing deadline is extended if the incumbent is eligible to file and does not file to run for re-election. If the incumbent is ineligible or termed out the filing deadline will not be extended.

## **2. Question about campaign ethics. Should any issues that come up be directed to the City Clerk or the Ethics Commission?**

Complaints regarding ethics violations may be reported to either the City Clerk's office or the Ethics Commission.

## **3. Is there a process to changing ballot designation?**

A designation given by a candidate shall not be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing nomination documents, except as specifically requested by the elections official. The elections official shall maintain a copy of the ballot designation worksheet for each candidate that appears on the ballot pursuant to E.C. Section 13107.

The designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both primary and general elections, unless the candidate, at least 98 days before the general election, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request. A new ballot designation worksheet must be completed.

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

## **4. Where do we get our manila folder?**

You can pick up your nomination packet at City Hall. Go to window 12 and someone from the City Clerk staff will come down to assist you.

## **5. Do we need to have a ballot designation?**

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

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

## **6. Can you use veteran status as ballot designation?**

No, you can't use "veteran" as a ballot designation. Veteran is considered a status not an occupation or vocation.

## **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(s), vocation(s), or occupation(s).

**8. Does the nomination information also apply to school board and/or City College Trustee races?**

School board and/or City College Trustee races are managed by the LA Registrar's Office. For further information, they may be reached at (562) 462-2339 or at [LAVOTE.gov](http://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 is filed along with the entire nomination packet.

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

Up to the individual.

**12. If you strike out words, will you consult with the candidate before doing that?**

Yes, no changes will be made without first consulting the candidate.

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

When you file your nomination packet.

**14. Businesses are putting our signs in their windows, is that okay as long as they are legally smaller than a yard sign?**

Yes, business can place signs in windows.

**15. Can an individual give money from both themselves as an individual and their business?**

No, this is considered two contributions.

**16. Please give a brief description of in-kind contributions.**

An in-kind contribution is a non-monetary good or service offered for free or at less than the usual charge. This also includes when an intermediary pays for services on someone's behalf. Such examples would include T-Shirts, Hats, Stickers, Pencils, Food, or Art. More information can be found in the [Campaign Disclosure Manual 2, Chapter 3 - 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, this is also considered an in-kind donation.

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

Same as monetary contributions.

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

The FPPC has guidelines regarding contributions. Specifics can be found in the [Campaign Disclosure Manual 2, Chapter 3 - Contributions](#).

**20. Can a married couple with a joint account do one \$800 check on behalf of them both if they're not located within the jurisdiction and therefore won't be applied to the matching funds criteria of the City?**

Joint Checking Accounts: Individuals (including spouses) may make separate contributions from a joint checking account. For reporting purposes, the full amount of the contribution is reported as coming from the individual who signs the check. If two or more individuals sign the check, the contribution is divided equally between or among the signers, unless there is an accompanying document signed by each individual whose name is printed on the check that clearly indicates a different apportionment.

A check drawn on a joint checking account that is signed by an individual not listed on the check (e.g., an accountant) must be accompanied by a document signed by at least one of the individuals listed on the check stating to whom the check is to be attributed.

**21. Is ballot harvesting legal in Long Beach?**

Ballot Harvesting is not legal. A VBM ballot may be dropped off by a designated person, so long as that person is not being compensated on the basis of how many VBM ballots they return (even one).

**22. In previous elections incumbents have used city events to do campaigning, to whom is this reported, FPPC, Ethics Commission, and City Clerk?**

Please report to all three agencies.

**23. Can campaign events be held in city parks?**

While [Gov. Code 8314](#) and the [Long Beach Ethics Handbook](#) restricts the use or authorization of certain City owned properties, candidates may use the City's public parks and/or community centers for political or campaign-related activities, including fundraising such as parks to conduct political activity.

**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.