



CITY OF PINOLE

City Clerk's Office

2131 Pear Street
Pinole, CA 94564
Phone (510) 724-8928
www.pinole.gov



GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for considering running for public office. This is an exciting time to run for office and regardless of the position, our democracy works best when people are willing to step up and get involved. The City of Pinole consolidated its General Municipal Election with the Contra Costa County Elections Division for the November 3, 2026, where Pinole voters will be electing three (3) Council members.

The reference guide will assist you during the electoral process; it summarizes the major provisions related to candidates running for office and is not intended to be an all-encompassing guide. It will offer you information about regulations and important candidate filing dates and campaign deadlines. I hope you find this information helpful. My staff and I are here to help you during the process and answer questions not answered in the guide; however, we cannot provide legal advice or legal interpretations. Should you have questions about campaign contributions and forms, please contact the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

A Candidate's Statement is optional. This candidate statement may include the name, age and occupation of the candidates and a brief description, of no more than **250 words**, of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. The estimated cost to file a Candidate's Statement in the Voter Pamphlet is **\$416** and will be collected upon receipt of statement. The City Council has adopted an ordinance Establishing Local Campaign Contribution Limits – Ordinance 2008-06. All candidates will be subject to this ordinance, and a copy will be included in the candidate packet.

Please contact me to schedule an **appointment to obtain and file nomination papers** at (510) 724-8928 or by email at hbelle@pinole.gov. The City Clerk's normal office hours are Monday – Thursday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please note that City Hall is closed on Friday; however, I will be available by appointment on the **final filing deadline of Friday, August 7, 2026 at from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather Bell-Spears".

Heather Bell-Spears, CMC
City Clerk

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ELECTION KEY DATES
General
November 3, 2026

APPLIES TO	DATES
Military and Overseas Voter Ballots Mailed	September 19 <i>E-45</i>
Voter Information Guide Mailing	September 24 <i>E-40</i>
Vote-by-Mail Ballots Mailed	October 5 <i>E-29</i>
Ballot Drop-Off Locations Open	October 5 <i>E-29</i>
Registration Deadline	October 19 <i>E-15</i>
Supplemental Voter Information Guide Mailing	October 21 <i>E-13</i>
Last Day to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot	October 27 <i>E-7</i>
Last Day to Return a Vote-by-Mail Ballot	November 3 <i>Election Day</i>
Election Day	November 3 <i>Election Day</i>
Last Day to Cure a Vote-by-Mail Ballot	November 25 <i>E+22</i>
Canvass / 1% Period	November 4 – December 3 <i>E+1 – E+30</i>
Certification Deadline / Final Results Transmitted	No later than December 3 <i>E+30</i>

Candidate KEY DATES November 3, 2026 General Election

	APPLIES TO	DATES
Candidate Filing Period	All School and Special Districts	July 13 – August 7 <i>E-113 – 88</i>
Extended Filing Period	If no incumbent files nomination papers by August 7, the filing period is extended for non-incumbents only	August 8 – 12 <i>E-87 – 83</i>
Public Review of Ballot Designations and Candidate Statements	All candidates	August 8 – 17 <i>E-87 – 78</i>
	For Candidate Statements and Ballot Designations filed during the extended period	August 13 – 22 <i>E-82 – 73</i>
Last day to withdraw Candidate Statement	All candidates	August 10 <i>E-85</i>
	Candidates who filed during the extended filing period	August 13 <i>E-82</i>
Last day to file a petition forcing a contest on the General Election ballot	Applies only to offices where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of positions	August 12 <i>E-83</i>
Randomized alphabet drawing for ballot placement	All candidates	August 13 <i>E-82</i>
Write-in Candidacy Period	All offices	September 7* – October 20 <i>E-57 – E-14</i>

*Date falls on a weekend or state holiday; it moves forward to the next business day.

OFFICES FOR ELECTION

CITIES	NUMBER OF POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED	TERM OF OFFICE	NOMINATION SIGNATURES REQUIRED
Antioch	City Clerk 1 Councilmember, District 1 1 Councilmember, District 4	2 years 4 years 4 years	20
Brentwood	1 Councilmember, District 2 1 Councilmember, District 4	4 years 4 years	
Clayton	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
Concord	Treasurer 1 Councilmember, District 1 1 Councilmember, District 3 1 Councilmember, District 5	4 years 4 years 4 years 4 years	
Danville	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
El Cerrito	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
Hercules	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
Lafayette	2 Councilmembers 1 Councilmember	4 years 2 years	
Martinez	Mayor 1 Councilmember, District 1 1 Councilmember, District 4	4 years 4 years 4 years	
Moraga	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
Oakley	1 Councilmember, District 2 1 Councilmember, District 4	4 years 4 years	
Orinda	3 Councilmembers	4 years	
Pinole	3 Councilmembers	4 years	
Pittsburg	City Clerk	4 years	

	Treasurer	4 years	
	3 Councilmembers	4 years	
Pleasant Hill	1 Councilmember, District 3	4 years	
	1 Councilmember, District 4	4 years	
San Pablo	City Clerk	4 years	
	Treasurer	4 years	
	2 Councilmembers	4 years	
San Ramon	Mayor	2 years	
	1 Councilmember, District 2	4 years	
	1 Councilmember, District 4	4 years	
Walnut Creek	Treasurer	4 years	
	2 Councilmembers	4 years	

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

A candidate must be:

- a) A U.S. Citizen; and
- b) A registered voter at the time the Declaration of Candidacy is issued; and
- c) A registered voter in the political subdivision for which they are running; and
- d) Not have been convicted of a felony involving accepting or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes.

Government Code 1021/Election Code 20, 201

2026 FILING PERIODS

General Election – November 3, 2026

Filing Period:

July 13 - August 7, 2026

*Extended Filing Period:

August 8 - August 12, 2026

*Extended Filing Period

If nomination papers for an incumbent elective officer are not filed by the filing deadline, the filing period for that office is extended 5 calendar days for non-incumbents only. There shall be no extended filing period for candidates where the incumbent cannot file due to term limits or offices that are vacant.

Election Code 8024

CANDIDATE APPLICATION PACKET

The Candidate Application Packet often referred to as “papers”, includes the following forms:

- Nomination Petitions
- Filing Fee Information – **NO FILING FEE**
- Declaration of Candidacy
- Ballot Designation Worksheet
- Candidate Statement of Qualifications (*Optional*) **Estimated Cost of \$416.00**
- Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)
- Campaign Finance Disclosure
- Code of Fair Campaign Practices (*Optional*)
- Voluntary Expenditure Limitation Agreement (*Optional*)
- Opt-Out/Request Confidential Status – Candidate Form

Nomination Petitions

Candidates for City offices are required to file nomination petitions containing no less than the 20 required signatures, and no more than 30 signatures. Signers of nomination petitions must be registered voters of the City of Pinole. A signer can only sign as many nomination papers as positions up for election. To qualify, candidates must obtain a minimum of 20 valid signatures, as required within a city of 1,000 or more.

A signature is valid if it is of a registered voter who lives within the boundaries of the City. The signer must be a registered voter to the address at which they reside.

The Nomination Paper, to collect signatures, shall be obtained from the City Clerk’s office during the nomination period of July 13, 2026 – August 7, 2026.

Circulators of Nomination Petitions

Circulators must be 18 years of age or older. Candidates may circulate and sign his/her own nomination petitions.

The Affidavit of Circulator, located on the back of each petition, must be completed in the circulator's own hand, including if the candidate circulates his or her own petition.

Election Code 102, 104

Signers’ Qualifications

Signers must be registered voters of the City of Pinole. Signers do not need to be of the same political party as the candidate.

Election Code 8068

Signers’ Limitations

Signers may only sign one nomination petition for any candidate for a given office. If more than one position is to be filled in the same office, signers may sign nomination petitions for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled for that office.

Election Code 8069

Verification of Signatures on Nomination Petitions

Petitions are validated in the order of arrival. The signatures of all signers on nomination petitions are verified by the Elections Division, generally within 48 hours. Candidates will be notified immediately after signatures have been verified.

Deficient Signatures

Once the nomination paper is filed with the Elections Official, it may not be returned to the candidate to obtain additional signatures. If it is determined to be insufficient, the Elections Official shall provide a copy of the nomination paper to the candidate with an indication of which signatures are valid/invalid, and issue one supplemental petition to the candidate on which the candidate may collect additional signatures. The supplemental petition shall be filed not later than the last day for filing for that office. The form of the supplemental petition shall be the same as the nomination paper, except that the word “Supplemental” shall be inserted above the phrase “Nomination Paper.”

PLEASE NOTE: The Circulator Information must be COMPLETED & SIGNED BY THE CIRCULATOR PRIOR to filing the nomination petitions with the City Clerk.

Circulating Petitions in More than One County

If the nomination petition and/or signatures in-lieu of filing fee petitions are circulated for an office located in more than one county, the circulator must use separate petition forms in each county. The signatures must be submitted to the Elections Office of the county in which the petition was circulated.

Election Code 8104

Declaration of Candidacy

The “Declaration of Candidacy” is filed by each candidate for City offices.

The “***Declaration of Candidacy***” is an official document in which the candidate indicates how his/her name and ballot designation is to appear on the ballot. The candidate declares that he/she meets the statutory and/or constitutional qualifications for the office sought, and that if nominated, the candidate will accept the nomination and not withdraw.

Election Code 8001, 8800, 8801

The “Declaration of Candidacy” is **NOT** to be removed from the City’s office.

Ballot Designation Worksheet

The ballot designation is the word or group of words that will appear on the ballot under the candidate’s name, designating the candidate’s principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

Ballot designations may be rejected if they do not comply with the rules set by California Election Code 13107. If rejected, the candidate will be notified by phone or by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt, addressed to the mailing address appearing on the candidate’s ballot designation worksheet. If an alternative designation is not provided within the time allowed, no designation will appear on the ballot. If a candidate fails to file a “Ballot Designation Worksheet”, no designation will appear on the ballot. Ballot designations for City candidates will be reviewed and accepted by the City Clerk’s office.

Ballot Designation Guidelines and examples are found in **Attachment A**.

Election Code 13107, 13107.3, 13107.5

Public Review Period

After the close of the filing period, anyone may examine any candidate's ballot designation. During a 10-calendar-day period commencing the day after the close of the filing period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction challenging a ballot designation.

No challenges may be submitted to or will be considered by the Elections Division, Registrar or City Clerk.

Election Code 13313, 13314

Candidate Statement of Qualifications

Each candidate for elective office must complete a "Candidate Statement of Qualifications" and may prepare an optional candidate statement at their own expense. The candidate statement is designed to familiarize voters with a candidate's qualifications for the office he/she is seeking. The candidate statement is incorporated into the "Voter Information Guide" and will be mailed to all registered voters eligible to vote for that particular office. The candidate statement is printed in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Election Code 13307

For a sample of the Statement of Qualifications Information, see **Attachment B**.

Filing of Candidate Statement

In addition to filing a hardcopy, candidates need to submit the statement in an editable text format, to the following email address: hbell@pinole.gov.

The candidate statement will be formatted to appear, as closely as possible, to the hardcopy filed. Statements are subject to the word counts and guidelines described in **Attachment B**.

Restrictions

The candidate statement cannot make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.

Election Code 13308

Candidate Statement Costs

The cost of **\$416.00** for the candidate statement must be paid at the time the statement is filed. For candidate statement costs see **Attachment C**.

Withdrawing/Changing a Candidate Statement

The candidate statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5:00 pm of the next business day, after the close of the filing period. A candidate must sign a statement if he/she chooses to withdraw the candidate statement. A new candidate statement cannot be filed to replace a withdrawn candidate statement after the end of the filing period. The

candidate statement will remain confidential until after the close of the filing period for the office sought.

Election Code 13311

Public Review Period

After the close of the filing period, anyone may examine candidate statements. During a 10-calendar day period, commencing the day after the close of the filing period, any voter of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held, or the county elections official may seek a writ of mandate or an injunction challenging any or all of the material in a candidate statement. No challenges may be submitted to or will be considered by the Elections Division, Registrar or City Clerk.

Election Code 13313, 13314

Election Code 13307

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)

Every candidate is required to file a “Statement of Economic Interests” (Form 700) disclosing certain financial interests.

The Form 700 is not required if the candidate has filed a statement for the same jurisdiction within **60 days** prior to the filing of his/her “Declaration of Candidacy”. The candidate shall file a copy of their previously filed Form 700.

Government Code 87202, 87203

The City Clerk’s Office is the filing official for “Statements of Economic Interests” in conjunction with candidacy for elective offices only.

Government Code 87200

Campaign Finance Disclosure

All local candidates, their committees, and committees supporting or opposing ballot measures are required to report campaign contributions and expenditures.

Effective January 1, 2016, the recipient committee qualification threshold was raised from \$1,000 to \$2,000. When a candidate receives nomination papers, he/she will receive an informational manual prepared by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and the appropriate forms that give specific information.

Candidates should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the information provided by the FPPC and carefully note the filing deadlines, as the Act imposes penalties for late filing of campaign statements. Information and requirements can be found at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Government Code 85201

For a brief summary of the most commonly used forms, see **Attachment E**.

Code of Fair Campaign Practices

By subscribing to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices, a candidate vows to follow the principles of decency, honesty, and fair play. Subscription to the Code is optional. Completed forms are to be filed with the City Clerk and shall be retained for public inspection until 30 days after the election.

Election Code 20400, 20420, 20440-20444

Department of Transportation Statement of Responsibility

The California Department of Transportation has specific guidelines and responsibilities regarding political signs placed within its jurisdiction. All candidates have the option of receiving a copy of the Department of Transportation's Statement of Responsibility form (DOT ODA-0027) at the time nomination documents are issued.

For a sample of the Department of Transportation's Statement of Responsibilities form, refer to Attachment G on pages 29 and 30.

CONFIDENTIALITY FOR CANDIDATES

Assembly Bill (AB) 1392 was signed into law by the Governor and became effective January 1, 2026. AB 1392 adds CA Elections Code section 2166.9, which makes the residence address, telephone number, and email address listed on the affidavit of voter registration for an elected official or candidate confidential.

What Does Confidential Status Mean?

The residence address, telephone number, and email address listed on an elected official's or candidate's voter registration affidavit are now considered confidential under this new code section.

Elections Code § 2166.9(b)

This means candidates and elected officials who are confidential voters should expect the following changes to their current voting process:

- Future voter materials, including ballots, will be sent to a valid mailing address.
- The confidential individual will not appear on any list, roster, or index produced by the county elections official.
- The confidential individual will not be able to vote in person because they will not appear on the voter index. If they choose to vote in person, they will be issued a provisional ballot, and their confidential status will be removed when our office processes the provisional ballots. After which, they will need to reapply for confidential status again.

How/When Does Information Become Confidential?

Current elected officials

An elected official in office on the effective date of this section must contact the county elections official to request the confidential status of their voter registration record.

Elections Code § 2166.9(i)

For individuals filing for an elected federal or state office

The Secretary of State (SOS) will provide a list to each county elections official identifying all candidates residing in that county. Within five (5) business days of receiving this list from the SOS, the county elections official must make the residence address, telephone number, and email address of each candidate, as stated on their affidavit of registration, confidential.

For individuals filing for an elected local office

Within five (5) business days of receiving a candidate's nomination papers, the county elections official will make the candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address, as listed on the affidavit of registration, confidential.

Elections Code § 2166.9(c)

For How Long will the Confidential Status Last?

If a candidate chooses to be a confidential voter, the status will last only as long as they are a candidate or for as long as they hold an elected office. For candidates, confidentiality ends when the winner takes office. If they are the winning candidate, they may remain confidential for the duration of their term in office if they choose.

Elections Code § 2166.9(f)

Opting Out of Confidential Status

A candidate who does not wish to have confidential voter status may choose to opt out when filing their Declaration of Candidacy. Likewise, an elected official may opt out at any point while serving during their term.

An elected official who has previously opted out of confidential voter status may reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving or running for office. Upon receipt of the request, the confidential voter status will be reinstated.

Elections Code § 2166.9(j)

Exceptions to Confidentiality Status

Regardless of any other laws, the residence address, telephone number, and email address of an elected official or candidate that are deemed confidential under this section may only be disclosed for legitimate journalistic or governmental purposes.

Responsibilities

An elected official or candidate should reach out to their county elections official to verify that their voter registration record has been made confidential.

If an elected official or candidate relocates to a new county, they must apply for confidential voter status within sixty (60) days of moving, if such status is available in the new county.

Requesting Confidential Information

To obtain the confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address of a federal or state elected official or candidate for journalistic purposes, a request must be submitted to the Secretary of State.

For local elected officials or candidates, requests for their confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes should be submitted to the county elections official or other designated local elections official.

Elections Code § 2166.9(k)

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

A person who did not file during the regular filing period may file for office as a write-in candidate. There is no fee or charge required of a write-in candidate, except in the case of some city offices.

Any person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have votes cast for him/her counted shall file a "Statement of Write-In Candidacy".

Forms are available at the City Clerk's Office between the following dates:

Write-In Filing Period: September 7 - October 20, 2026

Election Code 8605

Some offices require nomination signatures to be collected for a valid write-in candidacy. Signers of nomination papers for write-in candidates shall be voters of the City of Pinole. A minimum of 20, with no more than 30, qualified signatures are required.

Write-in candidates must also file the same forms required of other candidates who have filed during the regular filing period. The candidate statement form or ballot designation form does not apply to write-in candidates and they may not submit a candidate statement.

Only votes cast for official write-in candidates will be reported at the time of certification.

Election Code 8605, 8606

COMMON QUESTIONS AND SITUATIONS

Filing Nomination Papers on Behalf of a Candidate

If a candidate is unable to pick up their Candidate Application Packet in person, he/she may designate a person to act on his/her behalf. A written statement or "Authorization Form", signed and dated by the candidate, authorizing a person to receive the "Declaration of Candidacy" form and all other nomination papers from the Elections Office is required.

The "Authorization Form" is available with the City Clerk upon request. If the candidate will not be filing in person, the "Declaration of Candidacy" must be notarized before filing. ***Because an original signature is required, nomination documents may not be filed by fax or email.*** The candidate's designee may only receive and deliver papers and may not make any changes on the nomination documents.

Appearance of Names on the Ballot

A randomized alphabet drawing is the basis for determining the order of candidates on the ballot. Each candidate will be placed on the ballot in the order that each of the letters of his/her surname was drawn.

For example, the placement of candidates with the surnames of Miller and Ramos will depend on the order in which the letters M and R were drawn.

Six calendar days after the end of the filing period, the Secretary of State conducts a drawing of the letters. For the November 2024 Election the drawing will be conducted on August 15, 2024.

Election Code 13112

Candidates Elected at General Election

The candidate(s) for city office that receive(s) the highest number of votes from all votes cast for candidates for that office shall be elected to that office.

Election Code 10551, 10600

Election Night Results

Election results are available on the Contra Costa County Elections website at www.cocovote.us beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Election Night. Results will be updated periodically, until all Election Day ballots are counted.

Candidates and/or members of their campaigns are welcome to observe the Election Night processes. Observer guidelines will be issued upon arrival.

Final Official Results Taking Office

OFFICE	AUTHORITY	DATE
City Offices	City of Pinole – Upon certification of the ballot	<i>Tentative</i> December 3, 2026

Holding or Running For More Than One Office

Candidates are not prohibited from seeking more than one elective office and may serve in more than one office. There are, however, situations when holding more than one office is considered a conflict and incompatible.

There is no single statute that defines “incompatibility of offices”. The common law doctrine of incompatibility of offices prevents an elected official from holding two offices simultaneously if the offices have overlapping and conflicting public duties.

The courts have defined this concept as follows: “One individual may not simultaneously hold two public offices where the functions of the offices concerned are inherently inconsistent, as where there are conflicting interests, or where the nature of the duties of the two offices is such as to render it improper due to considerations of public policy for one person to retain both.”

Government Code 1099

For further information about conflict of interest or incompatibility of offices, contact the Fair Political Practices Commission by email at advice@fppc.ca.gov, by phone at (866) 275-3772, or visit their website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

The Political Reform Act, Government Code 1099

POLITICAL SIGN GUIDELINES

The placement of political signs is subject to local regulation.

If a candidate chooses to post campaign signs, a completed “Statement of Responsibility for Temporary Political Signs” form must be filed with the Department of Transportation. This form is issued to all candidates during the filing period and is part of the Nomination Papers. See Attachment F.

Signage in The City of Pinole is subject to the Pinole Municipal Code as noted below:

“Unless specifically authorized by this chapter, no signs may be affixed to city property by private parties. Any sign posted on city property in violation of this chapter may be summarily removed by the city as a trespass and a public nuisance.”

(Ord. 2010-02 § 1 (part), 2010) Municipal Code 17.54.030

ATTACHMENT A - BALLOT DESIGNATION GUIDELINES

The ballot designation is the word or words that appear on the ballot under the candidate's name, designating the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate. Listing a designation on the ballot is optional. Ballot designations become public once filed on the Declaration of Candidacy. The candidate shall not change ballot designations after the final date for filing nomination papers.

Elections Code § 13107

Format of Ballot Designation

Ballot designations are restricted to thirty (30) characters due to formatting limitations on the ballot. Designations longer than thirty (30) characters will be abbreviated. Elections officials will notify the candidate if an abbreviation is required to adhere to the character limit. The character limit encompasses all letters, numbers, spaces, and punctuation.

The examples below illustrate each type of office. Combining these office types is not permitted.

Elective Office Title

Words designating the elective public office currently held, provided the officeholder was elected to the office. In the case of judicial offices only, an appointed Judge may use the office title.

Example: School Board Member
 Board member, XYZ School District
 Assemblymember

Officeholder Status

The word Incumbent may be used if the candidate is seeking re-election to the same office and was elected to that office by a vote of the people or was appointed as a nominated candidate instead of an election. If the candidate was appointed and runs for election to the same office, then the candidate must use the words Appointed Incumbent or Appointed, and the title of the office held.

Example: Incumbent
 Appointed Incumbent
 Appointed Board Member, XYZ School District

The word(s) Incumbent or Appointed Incumbent must stand alone.

Elections Code § 8168(a)

The above-identified candidates may use the official title of the elective office they hold at the time of filing the nomination papers, if the candidate was elected or appointed to the office.

Elections Code § 13107(a)(1)

Profession

Principal Occupation: 3-Word Profession/Occupation/Vocation - No more than three words designating the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate, or the principal profession, vocation, or occupation during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents.

Example: High School Teacher Attorney Businessman/Councilmember
Elections Code § 13107(3)

Community Volunteer

A Community Volunteer shall constitute a valid principal vocation or occupation subject to the following conditions:

- a) A candidate's community volunteer activities constitute their principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- b) A candidate may not use the designation of "Community Volunteer" in combination with any other principal profession, vocation, or occupation.
- c) A candidate is not engaged concurrently in another principal profession, vocation, or occupation.

No Occupation Desired

If no ballot designation is requested, write the word "NONE" in the space provided for the ballot designation and the candidate's initials in the box provided on the Declaration of Candidacy form. The space provided for the ballot designation on the official ballot will remain blank.

Unacceptable Designations

A political party central committee designation is not a principal profession, vocation, or occupation as prescribed in this statute, nor is it an elective county or state office.

California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 7, 20712(e)

Designations will not be accepted if:

- It would mislead the voter.
- It would suggest an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, or virtuous.
- It abbreviates the word "retired" or places it follows any word(s) that it modifies.

Examples: Ret. Policeman
Policeman, Retired

- It includes the name of any political party.
- It uses any word(s) referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
- It refers to any activity that is prohibited by law.
- It uses a word or prefix, such as "former" or "ex-," which means a prior status.

Examples: Former Policeman
Ex-Policeman

Examples of unacceptable designations include:

Advocate
Concerned Citizen
Veteran
Philanthropist
Neighborhood Community Leader
Volunteer

ATTACHMENT B - CANDIDATE STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS INFORMATION

Candidate Statement of Qualifications
For the General Election to be held November 3, 2026
(Election Code §§ 13307, 13309, and 13311)

Instructions to Candidate: Carefully check for content, spelling, punctuation and grammar before submission. Your statement will be printed exactly as submitted. No changes are allowed once the statement is filed.

This form must be filed along with the candidate statement.

In addition to filing a hard copy, you will need to submit your final candidate statement in an editable text format to the following email address: cfile@vote.cccounty.us

Hard copy requires candidate signature.

Office Name: _____

Contest ID: _____ Candidate ID: _____

Word Limit: _____ • Cost: \$ _____ • Paid By: ☐ Candidate ☐ District

Candidate Name: _____

☐ I have reviewed the attached statement and I understand that no corrections or changes are allowed after it has been filed (pursuant to EC § 13307). I understand that Contra Costa County is mandated under the Voting Rights Act to provide voting materials and information in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

☐ I do not wish to file a Candidate Statement.

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

ATTACHMENT B – CANDIDATE STATEMENT INFORMATION (continued)

Below are the word count guidelines for calculating candidate statements.

Acronyms Examples: UCLA, PTA, U.S.M.C	one word
Geographical names Examples: Contra Costa County Walnut Creek City of Pittsburg Bay Area	one word
Districts with an elected board Examples: Contra Costa Community College District Antioch Unified School District East Bay Regional Park District San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District	one word
Numbers/Numerical Combinations 4 th /5 th Digits (1, 10, or 100, etc.) 1990-1991, 100%, etc. Spelled out (one, ten, or one hundred)	one word one word one word one word one for each word
Dates All digits (11/5/96) Word and digits (June 2, 1998)	one word one word one word
Hyphenated words Regularly hyphenated words that appear in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary online.	one word
Punctuation	not counted
Telephone numbers 335-7800 (925) 335-7800	one word one word one word
Email / Website addresses	one word

Below is a sample layout of three candidate statements, limited to 250 words, as they will appear in the county Voter Information Guide. The statements will be presented in the same order as the candidates appear on the ballot.

NAME OF DISTRICT	
NAME Ballot Designation I am running for the governing board of the ABC Unified School District because I feel I can bring a balance to the board. I attended local schools, graduating from ABC High School in 1985. I am married and currently have two children attending school in the district. I own and operate my own business, so I am well aware of resources and educational materials. I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district. I fully understand the value of a public education. As your next school board member, I will work for small class sizes and better learning environments for our students. I will also ensure that we create a safer learning environment to achieve these goals. I am also committed to promoting innovative programs that help our students develop critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. Our students must be prepared for the rapidly changing world, and I believe that providing a comprehensive education that includes both academic and real-world skills is critical.	NAME Ballot Designation I am running for the governing board of the ABC Unified School District because I feel I can bring a balance to the board. I am married and currently have two children attending school in the district. I own and operate my own business, so I am well aware of resources and educational materials. I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district. I fully understand the value of a public education. As your next school board member, I will work for small class sizes and better learning environments for our students. I will also ensure that we create a safer learning environment to achieve these goals. I am also committed to promoting innovative programs that help our students develop critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. Our students must be prepared for the rapidly changing world, and I believe that providing a comprehensive education that includes both academic and real-world skills is critical. I am passionate about providing every child with an exceptional education and believe that we must work together to create the best possible future for our children. I thank you for considering me as a candidate for the school board and look forward to earning your vote. Vote for me! Thank you!
NAME Ballot Designation I am running for the governing board of the ABC Unified School District because: • I feel I can bring a balance to the board. • I attended local schools, graduating from ABC High School in 1985. • My two children attend school in the district. I own and operate my own business, so I am well aware of resources and educational materials. I am convinced we can offer quality education to all students within the district. I am also committed to promoting innovative programs that help our students develop critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. Our students must be prepared for the rapidly changing world, and I believe that providing a comprehensive education that includes both academic and real-world skills is critical. I am passionate about providing every child with an exceptional education and believe that we must work together to create the best possible future for our children. I thank you for considering me as a candidate for the school board and look forward to earning your VOTE. Thank you!	Each candidate statement is formatted into a box measuring approximately 3.5" x 4.25" using Arial Narrow 10 size font. Do not use: • Bullets, stars, or asterisks • Bold • Italics • All capital letters (except for acronyms or abbreviations) • Underlining • Lists • Indentation

ATTACHMENT C - CANDIDATE STATEMENT COST TABLE

Filing requirements for City offices may vary. Contact the appropriate City Clerk's office for more information. See page 7 for contact information

CITY	STATEMENT COSTS	WORD LIMIT	PAID BY
Antioch City Clerk District 1 District 4	\$1,503.00 \$410.00 \$530.00	250	Candidate
Brentwood District 2 District 4	\$361.00 \$351.00	250	
Clayton	\$323.00	200	
Concord Treasurer District 1 District 3 District 5	\$1,626.00 \$481.00 \$318.00 \$488.00	250	
Danville	\$809.00	250	
El Cerrito	\$510.00	250	
Hercules	\$511.00	250	
Lafayette	\$542.00	250	
Martinez Mayor District 1 District 4	\$681.00 \$276.00 \$299.00	250	
Moraga	\$392.00	250	
Oakley District 2 District 4	\$261.00 \$294.00	250	
Orinda	\$469.00	250	
Pinole	\$416.00	250	
Pittsburg	\$1,011.00	250	
Pleasant Hill District 3 District 4	\$269.00 \$275.00	200	
San Pablo	\$432.00	250	
San Ramon Mayor District 2 District 4	\$2,436.00 \$922.00 \$876.00	400	
Walnut Creek	\$1,173.00	250	

ATTACHMENT D- SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Contra Costa County Ordinance 530-2.808 requires all campaign disclosure reports and documents mandated by the California Political Reform Act to be filed electronically.

Contra Costa County has contracted with NetFile to be the filing platform for all local candidates, candidate committees and committees supporting or opposing ballot measures to electronically submit Campaign Finance Statements.

NetFile offers tutorials and help for each page of their website. You may find it helpful to watch the “How to Create a New Campaign NetFile User” video in the “How To Videos” section of the page at www.netfile.com/filer.

NetFile User Log In [Get Help for this Page](#)

E-Mail Address

Password
 [Lost Your Password?](#)

Log In

Campaign Committee Filers	Form 700 (SEI) Filers	Lobbyist Filers
New Campaign Committee Filers Create a New NetFile User	New Form 700 Filers New User? Request a Password	New Lobbyists Registration and Links
Training Request Campaign Committee Training	Videos How to use the "Lost Your Password?" Feature	
FPPC Information Committee Training & Outreach When & Where to File Campaign Statements	Documents FPPC Form 700 Instructions for 2022/2023 FPPC Form 700 Instructions for 2022/2023 Current FPPC Form 700 Instructions Current FPPC Form 700 FAQs	
Signature Verification Sign Pending Campaign Statements (For San Francisco & Berkeley Filers Only)		
Third-Party Uploads Upload a CAL File		
Videos How to Create a New Campaign NetFile User How to use the "Lost Your Password?" Feature How to Use the Committee Set-Up Wizard		
Documents Create a NetFile User & Link a Campaign Account How to Use Signature Verification		

ATTACHMENT E - SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS (continued)



Basic Filing Guidelines for candidates and committees. For more information you may contact FPPC at advice@fppc.ca.gov or (866) 275-3m, and by visiting the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Form 501- Candidate Intention Statement

Who: All Candidates

When: Before raising or spending any money including personal funds.

Where: Local Filing Officer

Less than \$2,000

Form 470- Campaign Statement Short Form

Who: Candidates who do not intend to raise or spend \$2,000 or more for their campaign, and do not have an open committee.

When: Any time, but no later than the date the first pre-election statement is due. The statement covers the entire year.

Where: Local filing officer

Form 470 -Supplemental

Who: Candidates who filed Form 470, but subsequently raised or spent \$2,000 or more for their campaign.

When: Within 48 hours of raising or spending \$2,000 or more.

Where: Local filing officer and with each candidate seeking the same office.

MUST ALSO FILE FORM 410

\$2,000 or more

Form 410 - Statement of Organization

Who: Candidates and organizations who raise or spend \$2,000 or more.

When: Anytime, but required to be filed within 10 days of reaching \$2,000 in contributions.

Where: Original and copy to Secretary of State, one copy to Local Filing Officer. There will be a fee of \$50 payable to the Secretary of State upon filing the Form 410.

Form 460 - Campaign Statement

Who: All campaign committees formed by filing a Form 410 and who have raised or spent \$2,000 or more.

When: Must be filed according to applicable FPPC filing schedules. Filing schedules are available on the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Where: Local filing officer via NetFile

After the Election, a candidate that is elected to office has the option of maintaining their committee and campaign bank account or terminating the campaign committee and closing the bank account. An officeholder who maintains a committee may:

- Continue to receive contributions;
- Use campaign funds to offset officeholder expenses; or
- Use funds for a future election.

An officeholder who wishes to terminate a committee must file both a Form 410 with the State and a copy with the local filing officer and a Form 460 in NetFile.

FORM 501 - Candidate Intention Statement

This form announces the candidate's intention to run for office and the desire to collect or spend campaign funds. This statement must be filed before a candidate solicits or receives any contributions, or before any expenditures are made from personal funds on behalf of their candidacy, excluding personal funds used to pay filing fees and/or fees for Statements of Qualifications.

Exception: Form 501 is not required to be filed by candidates who do not intend to receive any contributions, and the only expenditures from personal funds would be for payment of the filing fee (if applicable) and the Statement of Qualifications.

Form 501 is not used to obtain a Committee ID Number.

FORM 410 - Statement of Organization

This form must be filed with the Secretary of State's Political Reform Division (original) and with the Office of the Registrar of Voters (copy), within ten (10) days of receiving \$2,000 or more in contributions or making \$2,000 or more in expenditures. The term "contribution" includes monetary payments, loans, and non-monetary goods or services.

The Secretary of State issues Committee ID Numbers to all committees that file this form.

FORM 460 - Recipient Committee Campaign Statement

Candidates for office who receive contributions or have expenditures more than \$2,000 must file pre-election and semi-annual campaign statements during the year in which their election is being held. Please refer to the Filing Schedule for filing deadlines.

Please note that Form 460 must be filed electronically with NetFile at www.netfile.com/filer.

FORM 470 - Officeholder/Candidate Campaign Statement-Short Form

Candidates who do not anticipate spending or receiving \$2,000 or more during the calendar year, and do not have a controlled committee, are required to file this form with their Declaration of Candidacy (or no later than the filing deadline for the first pre-election campaign statement).

FORM 470 – Supplemental Candidate and Officeholder Campaign Statement

This form applies to candidates who have filed a Form 470 and subsequently received contributions or made contributions totaling \$2,000 or more for a calendar year. Once a Supplemental Form 470 is filed, the candidate or officeholder will be required to file a Form 410 and 460

ATTACHMENT F - DISTRICT VOTER REGISTRATION

District Registration

As of April 3, 2026

	Democrat	Republican	No Party Preference	Other	Total
Contra Costa County	377,047	140,904	162,214	49,343	729,508
Federal and State Offices:					
Congressional District 8	95,277	15,350	33,204	9,085	152,916
Congressional District 9	64,992	21,841	27,610	9,005	123,448
Congressional District 10	216,778	103,713	101,400	31,253	453,144
Assembly District 11	17,601	13,876	9,101	3,610	44,188
Assembly District 14	94,850	15,221	33,039	8,985	152,095
Assembly District 15	157,374	63,837	67,170	23,411	311,792
Assembly District 16	107,222	47,970	52,904	13,337	221,433
County Offices:	Total Registered Voters				
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 1					128,680
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 2					172,044
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 3					144,293
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 4					155,165
Member, Board of Supervisors, District 5					129,326
Cities:					
Antioch					67,344
Antioch - District 1					12,900
Antioch - District 4					18,886
Brentwood					43,904
Brentwood - District 2					10,489
Brentwood - District 4					9,976
Clayton					8,598
Concord					73,477
Concord - District 1					16,455
Concord - District 3					8,355
Concord - District 5					16,763
Danville					32,672
El Cerrito					17,769
Hercules					17,752
Lafayette					19,229
Martinez					26,121
Martinez - District 1					5,880
Martinez - District 4					7,008
Moraga					11,588
Oakley					28,964
Oakley - District 2					4,997
Oakley - District 4					6,581
Orinda					15,278
Pinole					12,593
Pittsburg					42,175
Pleasant Hill					23,733
Pleasant Hill - District 3					5,138
Pleasant Hill - District 4					5,423
Richmond					59,571
Richmond - District 2					8,956
Richmond - District 3					8,536
Richmond - District 4					12,693
San Pablo					13,162
San Ramon					52,259
San Ramon - District 2					14,523
San Ramon - District 4					13,308
Walnut Creek					49,868

ATTACHMENT G - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-36 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
(916) 654-6473 | TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda



Dear Candidate or Committee Member:

As a candidate or campaign worker for either office or a ballot measure, this reminder about State law governing campaign signs should be helpful to you.

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements.

A Temporary Political Sign meets the following criteria:

- A. Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
- B. Is placed no 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 sign (Attached).

A completed Statement of Responsibility must be submitted to:

Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942873, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Temporary Political Signs shall not 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 classified "Landscaped freeway".

State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal. We are calling these provisions to your attention to avoid possible embarrassment or inconvenience to you and your supporters. Please share this information with those assisting in your campaign.

Should you have any questions, comments or need additional information, please call (916) 654-6473.

Enclosure

DOT ODA-0027

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

ATTACHMENT G – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR TEMPORARY POLITICAL SIGNS**

DOT ODA-0027 (REV 04/2025)

Election Date: March November Other: _____

Candidate's Name: _____

Office sought or Proposition Number: _____

County where sign(s) will be placed: _____

Number of signs to be placed: _____

RESPONSIBLE PARTY:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (Include Area Code): _____

Email (Optional): _____

The undersigned hereby accepts responsibility for the removal of Temporary Political Signs placed pursuant to Section 5405.3 of the Outdoor Advertising Act for the above candidate or proposition.

It is understood and agreed that any Temporary Political Signs placed sooner than ninety (90) days prior to the election and/or not removed within ten (10) days after the election, may be removed by the Department and the responsible party will be billed for any associated removal costs.

I agree that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree to conduct business transactions by electronic means and that my electronic signature is the legal binding equivalent to my handwritten signature. I hereby agree that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it.

Signature of Responsible Party

Date

Mail Statement of Responsibility to:

Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942873, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001
Email: ODA@dot.ca.gov

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice: This document is available in alternative accessible formats. For more information, please contact the Forms Management Unit at (279) 234-2284, TTY 711, in writing at Forms Management Unit, 1120 N Street, M&89, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by email at Forms.Management.Unit@dot.ca.gov.

ATTACHMENT H - HISTORICAL VOTER TURNOUT FOR CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Election Date	Voter Registration	Total Turn out	% Turn Out	Total VBM	% Voting By VBM	No. of Precincts
June 2, 2026	731,753	327,699	44.80%	302,849	92.42%	938
Nov. 4, 2025	730,646	413,212	56.55%	378,201	91.53%	930
Nov. 5, 2024	722,861	539,219	74.60%	467,835	86.76%	926
Mar. 5, 2024	710,254	269,462	37.94%	246,710	91.56%	912
Nov. 8, 2022	701,969	394,153	56.15%	358,318	90.91%	1,265
June 7, 2022	706,257	247,512	35.05%	233,194	94.22%	1,034
Sep. 14, 2021	708,753	460,273	64.94%	432,737	94.02%	958
Nov. 3, 2020	703,021	591,143	84.09%	539,451	91.26%	957
Mar. 3, 2020	657,273	330,514	50.29%	246,041	74.44%	855
Nov. 6, 2018	619,963	423,348	68.29%	290,417	68.60%	744
June 5, 2018	602,171	239,628	39.79%	168,831	70.46%	702
Nov. 8, 2016	607,515	487,355	80.22%	309,319	63.47%	656
June 7, 2016	558,523	278,127	49.80%	175,555	63.12%	656
Nov. 4, 2014	527,521	259,007	49.10%	165,617	63.94%	652
June 3, 2014	528,162	151,788	28.74%	111,836	73.68%	650
Nov. 6, 2012	556,327	442,143	79.48%	245,953	55.63%	834
June 5, 2012	520,098	192,761	37.06%	133,566	69.29%	646
Nov. 2, 2010	533,825	352,657	66.06%	200,064	56.73%	807
Jun. 8, 2010	525,992	210,417	40.00%	138,739	65.94%	628
Nov. 4, 2008	527,145	456,876	86.67%	234,043	51.23%	854
June 3, 2008	490,954	169,475	34.52%	117,766	69.49%	772
Feb. 5, 2008	475,821	318,224	66.88%	168,668	53.00%	816
Nov. 7, 2006	486,441	308,206	63.36%	161,520	52.41%	1,032
Jun. 6, 2006	489,263	185,241	37.86%	111,115	59.98%	885
Nov. 8, 2005	492,656	281,120	57.05%	125,770	44.74%	556
Nov. 2, 2004	504,505	418,335	82.92%	156,920	37.51%	921
Mar. 2, 2004	453,034	250,235	55.24%	96,358	38.51%	787
Oct. 7, 2003	444,355	320,994	72.23%	111,387	34.70%	489
Nov. 5, 2002	484,640	274,087	56.6%	93,428	34.09%	1,072
Mar. 5, 2002	478,754	187,496	39.2%	57,765	30.81%	910
Nov. 7, 2000	493,826	384,300	77.80%	116,192	30.23%	1,078
Mar. 7, 2000	458,136	276,352	60.30%	78,947	28.57%	907

Presidential Elections are highlighted in gray.

ATTACHMENT I - POLITICAL SIGNS

Political signs are considered Non-Commercial signs (PMC 17.98 Definitions) and are exempt from sign permits and City review (17.52.040. EXEMPT SIGNS). Listed below are code excerpts regarding size and location of signs on private property.

Political signs may be erected when a candidate or Political Action Committee (PAC) has filed the required forms to establish a committee with the Secretary of State (SOS) or Nomination forms to run for office. Signs shall be removed within 5 days following the election. (Approved by Council minute order)

Signage on any public property or in any right-of-way is prohibited. (PMC 17.54.030)

NONCOMMERCIAL SIGN: A sign that displays noncommercial speech, e.g., commentary or advocacy on topics of public debate and concern.

17.52.040. EXEMPT SIGNS.

- A. The city has a compelling interest in allowing signs in order to comply with state and local laws, promote public safety, protect life and private property, promote the identification of property, guide emergency response personnel, and permit minor changes to make sign maintenance a less onerous burden on property owners; therefore, the following sign types are expressly exempted from the entitlement requirements of this chapter and Zoning Code but still must satisfy any and all other applicable city permit requirements when necessary (e.g., building, electrical, plumbing, grading, encroachment).
- B. To qualify for any of the exemptions listed below, strict compliance with the exemption as established in this section is required.
2. Exempt Signs with Limitations. The following signs are exempt from sign permits and city review requirements but must comply with all other requirements of this chapter (unless specifically noted otherwise) and the requirements as listed below:
 - f. Noncommercial signs consistent with the following requirements:
 - i. Noncommercial signs on all private property except residential property, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area and not exceeding ten (10) feet in height from finish grade.
 - ii. Noncommercial signs on residential property, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area, provided that they are set back at least five (5) feet from the public right-of-way and do not project over the roofline of any structure.
 - iii. Noncommercial signs on (MULTI-FAMILY) residential property, limited to one (1) for each dwelling unit or rentable room on the property, that are no more than one-half (1/2)

square foot in area and which are attached to and parallel with the building. The maximum sign area for such signage shall be twelve (12) square feet.

ATTACHMENT J

ORDINANCE NO. 2008- 06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PINOLE ADDING CHAPTER 1.16 "LOCAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS" TO THE PINOLE MUNICIPAL CODE

The City Council of the City of Pinole does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Pinole Municipal Code Amendment. Chapter 1.16 the City of Pinole Municipal Code entitled "Local Campaign Contribution Limits" is hereby added as follows:

1.16.010	FINDINGS
1.16.020	PURPOSE
1.16.030	DEFINITIONS
1.16.040	CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS
1.16.050	REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES
1.16.060	CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW
1.16.070	INFORMATIONAL MEETING
1.16.080	PENALTIES
1.16.090	AMENDMENTS

1.16.010 FINDINGS

(A) Monetary contributions to political campaigns are a legitimate form of participation in the American political process; however, the financial strength of certain individuals or organizations should not permit them to exercise a disproportionate or controlling influence upon the election of candidates in Pinole.

(B) The increasing costs of political campaigns compel many candidates to raise larger percentages of money from interested groups with a specific financial stake in matters which may come before the Pinole City Council. This has caused a public perception that votes may be improperly influenced by monetary contributions.

(C) The tendency for campaign contributions to be dominated by a small number of very large contributors undermines the integrity of the governmental process, the competitiveness of campaigns, and the public confidence in local officials and local agencies.

1.16.020 PURPOSE

The City Council enacts this chapter to accomplish the following purposes:

(A) To improve methods of financing campaigns in order to ensure the public's right-to-know, combat corruption and undue influence, and promote citizen participation in the political process.

(B) To prevent parties with a specific financial interest in the City's decision from exerting undue influence over those decisions by means of large campaign contributions.

(C) To allow candidates and officeholders to spend a lesser proportion of their time on fund raising and greater proportion of their time dealing with issues of importance to the City and its residents.

(D) To improve the disclosure of contribution sources in reasonable and effective ways.

(E) To restore public trust in governmental electoral institutions.

(F) To ensure that independent expenditures were not used to evade contribution limits.

(G) To prevent large contributors to independent expenditure committees from influencing candidates in the same way that candidates are influenced by large contributors who give to them directly.

(H) To prevent the corruption or appearance of corruption of candidates who have been given large contributions by independent expenditure committees and thus who may be influenced by those large contributions.

(I) To reduce the political *quid pro quo* by candidates who might be more inclined to provide favors and attention to those entities that, without this chapter, would have contributed large sums to the candidate's campaign through the independent expenditure intermediary.

1.16.030 DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings, and all other words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them by the definitions set forth in the Political Reform Act:

(A) **BALLOT MEASURE** means and includes initiatives, referenda, resolutions, advisory measures, and measures which are required by law to be submitted to a vote by the electorate.

(B) **BROAD-BASED POLITICAL COMMITTEE** means a committee of persons that has been in existence for more than six (6) months, receives contributions from one hundred (100) or more persons, and whose members act in concert to make contributions to five (5) or more candidates.

(C) **CANDIDATE** means a person who seeks election to an elective City office, including an office holder and all individuals specified in Government Code section 82007.

(D) **CITY ELECTION** means any municipal election to fill public offices in the City of Pinole, to hold recall elections, and to vote on ballot measures relating to City law.

(E) **ELECTION CYCLE** means -- for each elective City office, including the office of the City Treasurer -- a two (2) year period of time commencing on January 1st and ending at midnight on December 31st following the next election for the same office.

(F) **PERSON** means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, association, committee, or labor organization.

(G) **POLITICAL COMMITTEE** means a committee of persons which receives contributions from two (2) or more persons and whose members act in concert to make contributions to candidates.

(H) ***POLITICAL REFORM ACT*** means the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Government Code Section 81000 *et seq.*) as it has been and may be amended from time to time.

(I) ***PRIMARILY FORMED COMMITTEE*** means a committee pursuant to Government Code Section 82013(a) which is formed or exists primarily to support or oppose a single candidate or a single measure, or a group of specific candidates being voted upon in the same City election.

(J) ***SPECIAL ELECTION CYCLE*** means that period of time which begins the day on which the elective office becomes vacant and ends the day of the special election.

1.16.040 CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS

(A) Monetary contributions by persons. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no person shall make, and no candidate for elective City office, or campaign treasurer, shall solicit or accept, any monetary contribution, including loans, which would cause the total amount of monetary contributions made by that person to that candidate for elective City office or to any committees controlled by that candidate, including monetary contributions to all committees controlled by the candidate, to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(B) Monetary contributions by political committees and broad-based political committees. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no political committee or broad-based political committee shall make, and no candidate for elective City office, or campaign treasurer, shall solicit or accept, any monetary contribution, including loans, which would cause the total amount of monetary contributions made by a political committee or broad-based political committee to that candidate for elective City office or to any committees controlled by that candidate to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(C) In-kind contributions. In any election cycle or special election cycle, no candidate for elective City office, or campaign treasurer, shall solicit or accept any in-kind goods and services (nonmonetary) which would cause the total amount contributed (monetary and nonmonetary) to that candidate, including contributions to all committees controlled by the candidate, to exceed the following amounts:

1. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) by a person;
2. Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) by a political committee or broad-

based political committee.

(D) Limitations applicable to specified committees. Primarily formed committees or similarly organized committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose a single candidate or a group of specific candidates for elective City office being voted upon in the same election shall be subject to the campaign contribution limitations set forth in this chapter. Committees organized solely to support or oppose ballot measure(s) relating to City law shall not be subject to said campaign contribution limits.

(E) Return of excess contributions. Contributions, including loans, which either in the aggregate or on their face exceed the contribution limits of this chapter shall be deemed not to have been accepted if returned by the effective date of this chapter, or returned prior to deposit or negotiation, within twenty (20) business days of receipt.

1. A late nonmonetary contribution shall be returned by returning to the contributor either the nonmonetary contribution or its monetary equivalent. It

is permissible to return only the monetary amount by which the value of the nonmonetary contribution exceeds the contribution limits of this chapter, in an instance where the reason for the return is to avoid exceeding monetary limits.

2. This section shall not be construed to authorize the making or solicitation of any contribution in excess of the contribution limits of this chapter, or in violation of any of its other provisions.

(F) Loans and Discharge of Loans. A candidate for elective City office may forgive loans made by the candidate to his or her campaign upon leaving office and by filing the relevant termination statements required by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

1.16.050 REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Each campaign statement required by the Political Reform Act shall contain the same information required thereby, including the information required by Government Code Section 84211.

1.16.060 CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW

(A) In addition to other duties required by law, the City Clerk shall monitor all campaign statements filed with the City. The City Clerk shall:

1. Determine whether the campaign statement required by this chapter has been timely filed with the City Clerk;
2. Determine if any reported contributions on any campaign statement exceed the allowable limits established by this chapter; and
3. Notify candidate(s) or groups of any errors in their campaign statements.

(B) The candidate or group may correct any mistake made in the preparation of any statement within five (5) days after receipt of the notice from the City Clerk or City Attorney. The correction(s) must be accompanied by an explanation of how the error occurred.

(C) The City Clerk shall report to the City Attorney any apparent violations of this chapter which have not been corrected or cannot be corrected by the candidate or group.

(D) The City Attorney may prosecute the violations of this chapter or refer violations to the District Attorney for enforcement.

1.16.070 NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

The City Clerk shall provide a copy of this Chapter to all qualified candidates for City office during the nomination period for City office, to inform candidates of the provisions of this chapter.

1.16.080 PENALTIES

(A) Criminal penalties.

1. A violation of this chapter is a misdemeanor.
2. A person who violates a provision of this chapter, or causes any other person to violate a provision of this chapter, or who aids or abets any other person in the violation of any provision of this chapter is subject to criminal penalties as set forth in Chapter 1.12 of the Pinole Municipal Code.
3. Prosecution of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be commenced within two (2) years after the date of the violation.
4. No person convicted of a misdemeanor under this chapter shall act as a City contractor or consultant for a period of four (4) years following the date of conviction unless the court at the time of sentencing specifically determines that this provision shall not be applicable.

(B) Civil penalties.

1. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any provisions of this chapter may also be subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$1,000 or the amount of the unlawful contribution, if any, or the amount which was not properly disclosed, if any, whichever is greater.
2. No civil penalty may be imposed more than two (2) years after the date the violation occurred.

(C) Cumulative remedies. The foregoing remedies are nonexclusive, cumulative and in addition to any other remedy the City may have at law or in equity.

1.16.090 AMENDMENTS

This chapter may be amended by a majority vote of the entire City council to ensure consistency with state or federal law, including but not limited to the state Political Reform Act.

Section 2. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, provisions of this ordinance are severable. The City Council of the City of Pinole hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase hereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be held unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable.

Section 3. Effective Date.

In accordance with California Government Code Section 36937, this ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the thirty-first (31st) day after adoption.

Section 4. Publication.

Within fifteen (15) days after the passage of this ordinance the City Clerk shall cause this ordinance or a summary thereof to be published or to be posted in at least three (3) public places in the City of Pinole in accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 36933.

INTRODUCED this 1st day of July, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES: Fujita, Long, Murray, Swearingen

NOES: None

ABSENT: Horton

ABSTAIN: None

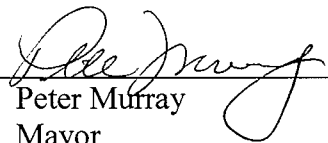
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of July, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES: Fujita, Horton, Long, Murray, Swearingen

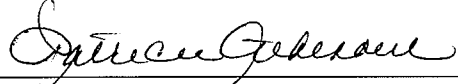
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

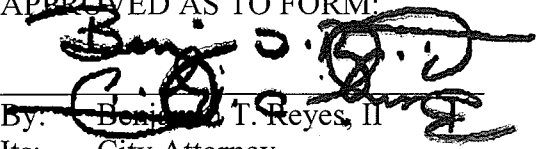
ABSTAIN: None

By: 
Its: Mayor

ATTEST:


By: Patricia Athenour
Its: City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


By: Benjamin T. Reyes, II
Its: City Attorney

Pursuant to G.C. Code Section 40806 (c), I certify the following:

Published: West County Times, July 26, 2008

Posted: 
By: _____, City Clerk

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