

Candidate Statement

A Candidate Statement is information, provided by you, the candidate, concerning your education and qualifications. This is optional. If provided it will be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet section of the Tuolumne County Voter Information Guide. You must file our form declaring whether or not you are filing a statement.

Any candidate for local nonpartisan office may submit a Candidate Statement to be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet portion of the Tuolumne County Voter Information Guide. U.S. Representative candidates, and State Senate and Assembly legislative candidates who choose to keep their campaign spending under specified dollar limits may submit a Candidate Statement.



Your 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.

Steps to Submit a Statement

1 Before filing, provide a digital copy

You must provide a digital copy of your candidate statement in Microsoft WORD format. You may send this by email or deliver it on a CD.

2 Elections office counts the words

Once you are in the office and ready to file the candidate statement, the elections office will print out a copy of the digital document received and count the words (see the “Word Count” section in the guide). If the word count is above the amount allowed, the statement will not be accepted as filed.



The elections office will not count the words until you are in our office and ready to file.

The maximum allowed for US Representative candidates, and State Senate and Assembly office candidates who choose to keep their campaign spending under a specified limit, have a limit of **250 words**. All other candidates have a limit of **200 words**.

3 Pay the candidate statement fee

If your statement submitted is below or meets the amount allowed, you will then pay the cost provided. Please see the “Candidate Statement Cost” at the end of this section for the amounts.



Unless otherwise determined by the governing body, candidate statements are printed at the expense of the candidate.

You will be required to make a check payable to the “Tuolumne County Elections Office” for the amount.

Basis for cost

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.

Tuolumne County is required to print all candidate statements in English. Each candidate filing a statement is required to pay the pro rata share as a condition of having the statement included in the voter information guide.

4 Sign the affidavit and file the statement

Once the estimated cost is paid, the elections office will accept your statement for filing. When filing, you must sign:

- A copy of the candidate statement
- The affidavit executed under penalty of perjury, declaring that the information contained in the statement is true and correct.



Please proofread your statement. The statement will be printed exactly as filed. This office will not correct any misspellings or errors in grammar or punctuation. After filing, the statement can be withdrawn, but not changed. The last day to withdraw is the first business day after the close of candidate filing.

Candidate Statement Cost

District Name	Number (Trustee, Division, Zone, District, Seat)	Estimated Cost
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Countywide

Countywide Offices		\$1,307.00
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County

County Supervisor	1	\$253.45
	4	\$267.30
	5	\$268.75

City of Sonora

Council Member		\$109.72
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General Format and Guidelines

Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Paragraphs should be single-spaced, with no line spacing between paragraphs.



The elections office may need to make adjustments to the candidate statement for space requirements in the Voter Information Guide.

Header

In the header of the statement you must state your name, and optionally may place your age and occupation. This is not included in the word count. The occupation is not restricted by ballot designation limitations; but should not exceed 7 words in length.

Education, qualifications, and background

The body of the candidate statement is a description of your education, personal background, and qualifications. This section is limited by the word count.

Your statement 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 must 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 | • Graphics |
| • Any bold | • Extra punctuation |
| • Underlining of words | • Capitalized words for added emphasis |
| • Italics | • Bullets of any kind |

Party Affiliation

Statements must not include your party affiliation, or membership or activity in partisan political organizations.

EC §13307(a)(1), 13308

Word Count Standards

Type	Description	Examples
Punctuation Marks	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.	
Proper Noun	Proper Nouns used to identify a person, place, or thing are counted as one word. Geographical names are included as proper nouns.	“Sonora High School”, “The Library of Congress”, “George Washington”, “City and County of San Francisco” [1 WORD]
Abbreviations and Acronyms	Acronyms or abbreviations for a word, phrase, or expression are counted as one (1) word.	CSUF, PTA, UCSF, U.S.M.C.
Hyphenated Words	A hyphenated word that appears 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.	Attorney-at-law, full-time (as an adjective), in-law
	 Be aware that many word processing software will count a hyphenated word as one word even if it does not fit this criteria.	

Type	Description	Examples
Dates	Dates consisting of a combination of digits are counted as one (1) word.	06/01/1995 [1 WORD]
	Dates consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as multiple words.	July 4, 2012 [3 WORDS], December Twenty-fifth [2 WORDS]
Numeric Combinations	Numeric combinations will be counted as one (1) word.	1973, 13 1/2, 1971-73, 5%, 8/3/73, #14
Monetary Amounts	Monetary amounts consisting of a combination of digits are counted as one (1) word.	15,000,000 [1 WORD]
	Monetary amounts consisting of a combination of words and digits are counted as multiple words.	\$15 million [2 WORDS]
Telephone and Fax Numbers	Telephone and fax numbers are counted as (1) word.	(209) 533-5570 [1 WORD] 1-800-345-VOTE [1 WORD]
Email Addresses and Websites	Email addresses and websites are counted as (1) word.	www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections [1 WORD] myemail@co.tuolumne.ca.us [1 WORD]

EC §9



Many word processing software do not count words using the same methodology. Please do not rely solely on software to count words prior to filing.

Special Considerations

Changing and withdrawing

Statements may be withdrawn until 5 pm the next regular business day following the close of nominations for the office. They cannot be changed after filing (except as specifically required by the elections official).

Confidentiality

Statements will remain confidential until the end of the filing deadline for nomination papers for the office.

Public Examination

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

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

EC §13313

Order of appearance in the guide

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

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's statement prepared pursuant to Elections Code Section 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.

EC §13307 (d) E.C.18351

Sample Candidate Statement

This example illustrates the candidate's statement as it will be printed in the voter information guide. 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, sentence form.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT**Candidate's Name:** Naveen Hernandez**Age:** 32**Occupation:** Businesswoman

Education and Qualifications: I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the Tuolumne area with my family still logging, 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.



Candidate Statement Affidavit

(Elections Code sections 13307, 13309, and 13311)

Election _____

Candidate Name: _____

Office: _____

FOR THIS OFFICE:

- The statement must be no more than _____ words in length.
- The cost of the statement, which includes printing, handling, and mailing of the voter information guide, is \$ _____.
- Candidates are required to either pay cash or make a check, payable to the "Tuolumne County Elections Office", for the amount specified at the time of filing.

PLEASE SELECT ONE AND SIGN:

☐ I declare under penalty of perjury that I prepared the candidate statement that is to be printed in the voter information guide (VIG) and mailed to each registered voter in my district.

or

☐ I request the candidate statement that was printed in the Primary Election voter information guide be again printed in the General Election. (For use by voter-nominated or run-off candidates only)

or

☐ I **DO NOT** wish to file a candidate statement.

I state that the actual cost of printing, translating, and handling is my responsibility.

(Printed Name of Candidate)

(Signature of Candidate)

(Date)

(Residential Address)

Note: Once filed, the statement cannot be changed. However, it may be withdrawn during the nomination filing period and until 5 pm of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. EC 13307(3)

☐ If the contest does not go on the ballot, I would like to automatically withdraw my candidate statement.

CANDIDATE STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Statements must be placed on a CD or emailed in MS Word or Google Docs format.
- This statement may include your age, occupation and a brief description of your education and qualifications.
- Type statement according to the following rules:
 - Type your statement in upper & lower case.
 - No bold, underlines, graphics, italics or capitalized words for added emphasis may be used.
 - No bullets, stars or asterisks are allowed.
 - Lists of items or phrases should not be vertical or indented, but must be strung together in paragraph format.

Note:

Any statement which does not conform to the rules above will be corrected by the elections official in order to assure all statements have uniformity of appearance.

However, despite formatting changes mentioned above, your statement will be printed exactly as submitted by you. Check carefully for errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar before filing.

FORMAT EXAMPLE:

*Pomegranate School District
Board Member*

NAME: *Frank Hygleyer*

AGE: 48

(Optional)

OCCUPATION: *Teacher/Businessman*

(Optional - May be more descriptive than what will appear on the ballot)

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

I can bring to the office a diversity of viewpoints and experience. Born and raised in the Tuolumne area with my family still logging, I can appreciate the concerns of the environmentalist. On the other hand, having been in...