



County of Madera Candidate Guide

Election Calendar

What	Who	Election Codes	E – Date	Dates
Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement	Candidates	GC 85200		
<p>A Form 501 must be filed before a candidate solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure, including personal funds.</p>				
Signatures in Lieu of Filing Fee Period	Candidates	8106(b)	-165 to -118	12/19/2025 to 2/4/2026
<p>During this period, petition forms may be obtained to secure signatures in lieu of all or a portion of the filing fee. Signatures submitted may also be applied to the signature nomination requirements for offices.</p>				
Secretary of State Prepares Notice of Offices for the Primary Election	Secretary of State	12103	-158	12/26/2026
<p>Secretary of State (SOS) prepares and transmits to each county elections official a notice designating all the state offices for which candidates are to be nominated for this election.</p>				
Governor's Proclamation Issuance	Governor	12000	-148	1/5/2026
<p>On or before this date, the Governor shall issue a proclamation calling the General Election and shall state the time of the election and the offices to be up for election and transmit a copy of the proclamation to the board of supervisors of each county. The SOS will send an informational copy of the proclamation to each county elections official.</p>				
Declaration of Intention Period (Judges)	Judicial Candidates	8023, 8105 (b))	-127 to -118	1/26/2026 to 2/4/2026
<p>First and last day for candidates for judicial office to file a Declaration of Intention. The filing fee must be paid or signatures in lieu of filing fee petitions must be filed at the time the Declaration of Intent is filed.</p>				
Semi-Annual Campaign Statements Due	Candidates	GC 84200, 84218	-120	2/2/2026
<p>The last day for all required candidates, organizations, committees, and slate mailers to file semiannual campaign statements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period Covered: The day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.				
County Notice of Election and Measure Publications	ROV	9163, 9205, 12112, 12113	-120 to -90	2/2/2026 to 3/4/2026
<p>The publication of the notice of election will be between these dates. The election notice contains the date of the election, any offices to be filled, the qualifications required for each office, the location where the Declaration of Candidacy forms will be available, where the forms are to be filed, and the deadline for filing these forms.</p>				
<p>The Measure notice contains the date of the election, the ballot question, the passage requirement, and argument and rebuttal deadlines.</p>				
Declaration of Intention Extension Period	Judicial Candidates	8023	-117 to -113	2/5/2026 to 2/9/2026
<p>If the incumbent judge has not filed a Declaration of Intention to succeed to the same office, then any other person, other than the incumbent, may file such a declaration during the extension period.</p>				
Nomination Period	Candidates	8020, GC 87200-87203, 87500	-113 to -88	2/9/2026 to 3/6/2026
<p>During this period CANDIDATES MUST FILE Declarations of Candidacy and nomination papers. No person may file nomination papers for more than one office at the same election. The Declaration of Candidacy shall be executed in the Elections Division office. All candidates must pay the non-refundable filing fees.</p>				
<p>Candidate must file a Form 700 Candidate Statement when submitting nomination papers unless they have filed a Form 700 for the same jurisdiction within the previous 60 days. (U.S. Senate, Congressional, and Central Committee Candidates are exempt.)</p>				
Candidate Statement of Qualification Period	Candidates	13307, 13311	-113 to -88	2/9/2026 to 3/6/2026
<p>A candidate may prepare a Candidate Statement on the appropriate form provided by the election's official. The statement may include the name, occupation of the candidate, and a brief description of the candidate's education and qualifications expressed by the candidate. The statement shall be filed in the election office at the time the candidate's nomination papers are filed.</p>				



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Form 700 Candidate Statement of Economic Interest submittal	Candidates	GC 87200-87203, 87500	-113 to -88	2/9/2026 to 3/6/2026
Candidates must file a Form 700 Candidate Statement when submitting nomination papers unless they have filed a Form 700 for the same jurisdiction within the previous 60 days. (U.S. Senate, Congressional, and Central Committees Candidates are exempt.)				
Administrative Deadline to File a Measure Argument	Proponent, Opponent & ROV	GC 57146, EC 9162, 9163, 9282, 9286, 9315	-99	2/23/2026
The last day to file arguments for and against a measure (300-word limit). 10-Day Public Examination Period: February 24 – March 5.				
Election Cycle Reports Due – 24-Hour Contribution Report	Candidates	GC 82036, 82036.5, 84203.3, 84204, 84215(e), 85204, 85309	-90 to 0	3/4/2026 to 6/2/2026
Late Contributions and Independent Expenditures of \$1,000 or more must be filed within 24 hours of the transaction.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Form 496 or Form 497 must be filed with the appropriate filing officer.Form 462 is required only for certain independent expenditures related to state candidates. (Title 2, Cal. Code Regs §18422.5)				
Administrative Deadline to File a Measure Rebuttal	Proponents & Opponents	9167, 9285, 9286, 9317	-89	3/5/2026
The deadline to file rebuttals to arguments for and against a measure (250-word limit).				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10-Day Public Examination Period: March 6–March 15				
County Counsel Impartial Analysis Available	Public	9160, 9280, 9313, 9314, 9500	-89	3/5/2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10-Day Public Examination Period: March 6 – March 15				
Last day to file or withdraw Nomination Documents	Candidates & ROV	8020, 8800, 10220, 10407, GC 87201	-88	3/6/2026
All nomination documents must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on this date. Final date for filing the following required documents: Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination papers, Candidate Qualifications, Statement of Economic Interests (only if required by the jurisdiction's Conflict of Interest Code or state law). Final date for filing the following optional documents: Code of Fair Campaign Practices; Candidate's Statement of Qualifications. Recommended date for filing the Officeholder and Candidate Campaign Statement – Short Form (California Form 470) if the candidate does not intend to raise or spend \$1,000 or more in connection with seeking or holding office. No candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election.				
Nomination Period Extension	Candidates	10516	-87 to -83	3/7/2026 to 3/11/2026
If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file the required nomination documents by 5 p.m. on the last day to file (88 days before the election), anyone (other than the incumbent) who is otherwise qualified shall have five (5) calendar days (until 5 p.m. on the 83 rd day before the election) to file for that office. This section does not apply when there is no incumbent eligible to be elected (this includes a vacancy and term limits).				
No candidate whose Declaration of Candidacy has been filed for any primary election may withdraw as a candidate at that primary election.				
Public Examination Period for Candidate Statements, Candidate Names and Ballot Designations	Public	9190, 9295, 9380, 9509 & 13313	-87 to -78	3/7/2026 to 3/16/2026
During this period, Candidate Statements, candidate names, and ballot designations shall be open for public examination. A fee may be charged to any candidate/person obtaining a copy of the material. During this period, any person may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to require any or all the material in a Candidate Statement to be amended or deleted.				



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Candidate Statement of Qualifications Withdrawal	Candidates	1337(3))	-83	3/11/2026
Last day for a candidate to withdraw their Candidate Statement. This must be requested by 5:00pm in writing. This deadline does not pertain to any offices that are in extension.				
Last Day to Withdraw a Local Measure	Proponents	9605	-83	3/11/2026
This is the deadline to withdraw a measure from the election that has been submitted to the voters of any jurisdiction. The order of election shall not be amended or withdrawn after this date.				
Party Endorsement List	Political Parties	13302(b)	-83	3/11/2026
The chair of any qualified political party may provide a written copy of the list of candidates endorsed or nominated by the party. Such a list shall be provided no later than 83 days prior to the candidate for a voter nominated office to appear on the ballot.				
Randomized Alphabet Drawing	Secretary of State & ROV	13111, 13112	-82	3/12/2026
The Secretary of State shall conduct a drawing of the alphabet to determine the order of the names of the candidates to appear on the ballot. The resulting random order of letters constitutes the alphabet for all offices other than multi-county state legislative offices. In addition, and only if applicable, the candidates' names will be rotated pursuant to E.C. §13111.				
For candidates for multi-county state legislative offices, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office in each affected county shall conduct a randomized alphabet drawing. The result of each county's drawing shall be used only to determine the order of the names of candidates for multi-county legislative offices within such county.				
Candidate Statement of Qualifications Withdrawal for Offices in Extension	Candidates	13307	-82	3/12/2026
If there has been an extension of the nomination period for a local nonpartisan office, this is the last day for any candidate for that office, who so desires, to withdraw his or her Statement of Qualifications. Statements may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5 p.m. on the next regular business day after the close of the extended nomination period.				
Public Examination Period for Statement of Materials Required to be Filed by the 83 rd Day	Public	13313	-82 to -73	3/12/2026 to 3/21/2026
The public examination period for Statements of Qualifications submitted during an extended nomination period.				
Judicial Incumbent-Only Nominee	ROV	8203, 8600	-78	3/16/2026
In any county or judicial district in which only the incumbent has filed nomination documents for the office of Superior Court Judge, his or her name shall not appear on the ballot unless a petition has been filed by this date indicating a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office. The petition must be signed by 100 registered voters qualified to vote with respect to that office. If the incumbent's name does not appear on either the Primary or General Election ballot, then on the day of the General Election, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters shall declare the incumbent judge reelected. No certificate of election shall be issued before the date of the General Election.				
Certified List of Candidates – Federal and State Office	Secretary of State	8148	-68	3/26/2026
The Secretary of State will issue the certified list of candidates for Federal and State Offices.				
Military or Overseas Vote-by-Mail Ballot	ROV	300(b), 3102, 3105	-60 to -45	4/3/2026 to 4/18/2026
Period the county elections official may process applications for military or overseas voter ballots. Any applications received by the county elections official prior to this period shall be kept and processed no later than April 18, 2026.				
Write-in Candidacy Period	Candidates	-8600-8606	-57 to -14	4/6/2026 to 5/19/2026
During this period write-in candidates must file their Statement of Write-in Candidacy and Nomination Papers with the county elections official.				
Counties Mail County Voter Information Guide	SOS & ROV	9094, 13303	-40 to -21	4/23/2026 to 5/12/2026
Between these dates the county elections official shall mail a county Voter Information Guide and polling place notice to each registered voter. Between these dates the Secretary of State shall mail state Voter Information Guides to all households in which voters were registered by April 3, 2026 (E-60).				



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First Pre-election Financial Statement Due	Candidates	84200.5, 84200, 84218	-40	4/23/2026
The last day for candidates listed on the ballot to file a Form 460 or Form 470 First Pre-election Statement. • Period Covered: January 1 – April 18, 2026				
Vote-by-Mail Ballots Mailed to all Voters	ROV	3001, 3003, 3017, 3021	-29	5/4/2026
All active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. Voters can vote in person or obtain a replacement ballot at any Vote Center within the county, and from the county elections office.				
Process Vote-by-Mail Ballots	ROV	15101	-29	5/4/2026
First day the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office may begin to open, prepare and machine read Vote by Mail ballots for the upcoming election. No results may be released until after the polls are closed on Election Day.				
Ballot Dropoff Locations Open	ROV	4005(1)(B)	-29	5/4/2026
24-hour official county ballot drop off locations open to receive ballots.				
Close of Registration	ROV	2102, 2107, 2115, 2116, 2152	-15	5/18/2026
Last day for any qualified elector to register or re-register to vote in the upcoming election. A person who has moved, changed their name or who wishes to change political party affiliation must re-register by this date.				
New Citizen Registration and Voting	ROV	331, 3500	-14 to 0	5/19/2026 to 6/2/2026
A new citizen is eligible to register and vote at the office of the county elections official at any time beginning on the 14th day before an election and ending at the close of polls on the election day following the date on which that person became a citizen. "New citizen" means any person who meets all requirements of an elector of, and has established residency in, the state, except if he or she will become a United States citizen after the 15th day prior to an election.				
Second Pre-election Financial Statement Due	Committees	84200.5, 84200.8(b), 84218	-11	5/22/2026
The last day for committees to file a Form 460 Second Pre-election Statement. Period covered: April 19-May 16, 2026				
Notice of Central Counting Place	ROV	12109	-10	5/23/2026
The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office shall publish, at least 10 days before the election, in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction, a notice specifying the public place to be used to tally votes when ballots are to be counted in a central counting place.				
Statement of Registration	ROV	2187(d)(3), 2187(d)(5)	-7	5/26/2026
The County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office shall send to the Secretary of State a summary statement of the number of voters registered as of the 15th day before the date of the primary election and general election, together with a current copy of the voter file on magnetic tape or in index form.				
Vote-by-Mail Ballots	Voters/ROV	3001, 3021	-7	5/26/2026
Last day for the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office to receive and process Vote by Mail ballot requests by mail for the upcoming election. After this date, any voter may request in-person to obtain a Vote by Mail ballot. Voters unable to request a ballot in person may designate in writing any person as an authorized agent to obtain and return the Vote by Mail ballot on their behalf.				
Election Day	Voters/ROV	3017, 3020, 3021, 10541, 14212	0	6/2/2026
Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Vote by Mail ballots may be returned in person or by authorized agent not later than 8 p.m. either to the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office or to any Vote Center in the county.				
Official Canvass	ROV	362, 15301, 15360	+2	6/4/2026
Last day the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office may begin the Official Canvass of the votes cast. During the Official Canvass of every election in which a voting system used, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office shall conduct a public manual tally of ballots cast in 1% of the precincts chosen at random by the elections official. In addition to the 1% count, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office shall tally one additional precinct for each contest not included in the initial group of precincts.				



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Last Day to Receive Vote-by-Mail Ballot by Mail Post Marked Election Day	ROV	4103	+7	6/9/2026
If a vote-by-mail ballot is received by the voter's elections official via the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company no later than three days after election day and either (1) the ballot is postmarked on or before election day or is time stamped or date stamped by a bona fide private mail delivery company on or before election day or if the ballot has no postmark, a postmark with no date, or (2) an illegible postmark, the vote by mail ballot identification envelope is date stamped by the elections official upon receipt of the vote by mail ballot from the United States Postal Service or a bona fide private mail delivery company, or and is signed and dated on or before election day it shall be determined to be timely cast.				
Deadline to Return Signature Verification Statements	Voters	3019(d)(A)	Two Days before Certification	
The last day for voters to return signature verification statements must be received by the ROV no later than 5 p.m. on the date provided in their cure letter.				
Completion of Canvass	ROV	15372	+30	7/2/2026
The Official Canvass of the election must be completed not later than this date and results certified to the governing body of each jurisdiction for adoption.				
Declare Candidates Elected	ROV	15400, 15401	+28	6/30/2026
Upon receipt of the Certification of Results from the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office, the governing body shall meet to adopt the certification. For all county offices, the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Office shall prepare and deliver to each person elected a Certificate of Election.				
Statement of The Vote	ROV	15501	+38	7/10/2026
The deadline for the SOS to compile and file the Statement of the Votes for this election.				
Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due	Candidates/Committees	G.C. §§84200, 84218	Refer to FPPC Filing Schedule	
All elected officers, candidates, and committees filing campaign statements in conjunction with an election must file a semi-annual statement covering the report period of May 18th (or from the date of last filing) to June 30th and must be filed no later than July 31st.				

Fair Political Practices Commission

Filing Schedule for Candidates and their Controlled Committees for Local Office Listed on the June 2, 2026 Ballot

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Feb 2, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	* – 12/31/25	460 or 470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 460: All committees must file this statement. 470: If a candidate raised or spent less than \$2,000 during 2025, file Form 470 (see below). The January 31 deadline falls on a Saturday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.
Within 24 Hours <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	3/4/26 – 6/2/26	497	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with another candidate or measure being voted on the June 2, 2026, ballot. The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online if available.
Apr 23, 2026 <i>1st Pre-Election</i>	1/1/26 – 4/18/26	460 or 470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each candidate on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
May 21, 2026 <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	4/19/26 – 5/16/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement. File by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight service. The committee may also file online if available.
Jul 31, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	5/17/26 – 6/30/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before June 30, 2026.

Additional Notes:

- *Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- Local Ordinance:** Always check whether additional local rules apply.
- Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report (Form 497) due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- Method of Delivery:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by first-class mail. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing under a local ordinance.
- Form 501:** All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.

- **Form 460:** Candidates who have raised/spent \$2,000 or more file Form 460. The Form 410 (Statement of Organization) must also be filed once \$2,000 or more has been raised/spent.
- **Form 470 (2025):** Non-incumbent candidates who raised or spent less than \$2,000 during 2025 and did not have an open committee must file Form 470 by February 2, 2026.
- **Form 470 (2026):** Candidates who do not raise or spend \$2,000 or more (or anticipate raising or spending \$2,000 or more) in 2026 and do not have an open committee may file Form 470 on or before April 23, 2026. If the candidate raises or spends \$2,000 or more later during the calendar year, a Form 470 Supplement and a Form 410 must be filed.
- **Independent Expenditures:** Committees making independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more to support or oppose other candidates or ballot measures also file:
 - **Form 496:** This form is due within 24 hours if made in the 90-day, 24-hour reporting period of the candidate's or measure's election. Refer to the applicable filing schedule. Form 496 is filed with the filing officer in the jurisdiction of the affected candidate or measure.
 - **Form 462:** This verification form must be e-mailed to the FPPC within 10 days.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See [Campaign Disclosure Manual 2](#) for additional information.
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the [Campaign Rules](#) page. You can also visit fppc.ca.gov/ > Learn > Campaign Rules. Refer to the FPPC video tutorial for candidates and treasurers for basic information for candidates and committees.

**Filing Schedule for
Committees Primarily Formed to Support/Oppose Candidates for Local Office
Listed on the June 2, 2026 Ballot**

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Feb 2, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	* – 12/31/25	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement. The January 31 deadline falls on a Saturday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.
Within 10 Days <i>Independent Expenditure Verification</i>	Ongoing	462	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees making independent expenditures must file this form with the FPPC. Email only. No paper copy is required. Committees file only one Form 462 per election for each candidate or measure supported or opposed by an independent expenditure.
Within 24 Hours <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	3/4/26 – 6/2/26	496 497	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 496: File if an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made. 497: File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. 497: File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with a candidate or measure listed on the June 2, 2026, ballot or to a political party committee. The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online if available.
Apr 23, 2026 <i>1st Pre-Election</i>	1/1/26 – 4/18/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement.
May 21, 2026 <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	4/19/26 – 5/16/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement. File by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight service. The committee may also file online if available.
July 31, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	5/17/26 – 6/30/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before June 30, 2026.

Additional Notes:

- *Period Covered:** The period covered by any statement begins on the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed.
- Local Ordinance:** Always check whether additional local rules apply.

- **Deadline Extensions:** Deadlines are extended when they fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. This extension does not apply to a 24-hour/10-day Contribution Report (Form 497) that is due the weekend before the election, and this extension never applies to any 24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report (Form 496). Such reports must be filed within 24 hours, regardless of the day of the week.
- **Method of Delivery:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by first-class mail. A paper copy of a statement may not be required if a local agency requires online filing pursuant to a local ordinance.
- **Multipurpose Organizations (including non-profits):** A multipurpose organization that uses nondonor funds to make contributions or expenditures may qualify as a major donor or independent expenditure committee and may be required to report payments on Campaign [Form 461](#). Such an organization will qualify as a recipient committee if expenditures exceed \$50,000 in a 12-month period or \$100,000 in four consecutive calendar years. An organization that qualifies as a recipient committee may need to file reports disclosing contributors. For more information, see the FPPC's fact sheet, [Multipurpose Organizations Reporting and Political Spending](#).
- **Public Documents:** All statements and reports are public documents.
- **Resources:** Campaign manuals and other instructional materials are available on the [Campaign Rules](#) page. Or, visit www.fppc.ca.gov > Learn > Campaign Rules.
- **Committee Status:** See FPPC [Regulation 18247.5](#) to determine if a committee is primarily formed.