



**County of Madera
Candidate Election Guide**

2026 November General Election

What	Who	Election Codes	E – Date	Dates
Form 501 Candidate Intention Statement	Candidates	GC 85200		
A Form 501 must be filed before a candidate solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure, including personal funds.				
Governor’s Proclamation Issuance	Governor	12000	-148	6/8/2026
On or before this date, the Governor shall issue a proclamation calling the Statewide 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.				
Period to submit for a local measure to be placed on the ballot.		EC 10509, 10522, 10524	-125 to -114	7/1/2026 to 7/12/2026
Last day resolution and boundary maps can be presented to the Election’s office to guarantee placement of measure on ballot.				
Semi-Annual Campaign Statements Due	Candidates	GC 84200, 84218	-95	7/31/2026
The last day for all required candidates, organizations, committees, and slate mailers to file semiannual campaign statements.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Period Covered: The day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1, if no previous statement has been filed to June 30, 2026.				
County Notice of Election and Measure Publications	ROV	9163, 9205, 12112, 12113	-120 to -90	7/6/2026 to 8/5/2026
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. The Measure notice contains the date of the election, the ballot question, the passage requirement, and argument and rebuttal deadlines.				
Nomination Period	Candidates	8020, GC 87200-87203, 87500	-113 to -88	7/13/2026 to 8/7/2026
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 filling fees.				
Candidate Statement of Qualification Period	Candidates	13307, 13311	-113 to -88	7/13/2026 to 8/7/2026
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.				
Form 700 Candidate Statement of Economic Interest submittal	Candidates	GC 87200-87203, 87500	-113 to -88	7/13/2026 to 8/7/2026
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.)				
Impartial Analysis due	Proponent, Opponent & ROV	EC 9160, 9313	-102	7/24/2026
Last day for legal counsel to submit impartial analysis to the Elections office to be included in the County Voter Information Guide.				
Administrative Deadline to File a Measure Argument	Proponent, Opponent & ROV	GC 57146, EC 9162, 9163, 9282, 9286, 9315	-102	7/24/2026
The last day to file arguments for and against a measure (300-word limit). 10-Day Public Examination Period: July 25 - August 3				
City/School/Special District Consolidation of Election	Cities/School Districts/Special Districts	EC 10403	-125 to -88	7/1/2026 to 8/7/2026
Any City or District may by resolution request the ROV to render specific election services to the city or district related to conducting the election. The resolution of the city/district shall specify the services requested. The city/district shall supply the elections official with a list of its precincts, or consolidated precincts, shapefiles, no later than 88 days before the election. The city/district shall reimburse the county in full for services performed upon presentation of a bill.				



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Election Cycle Reports Due – 24-Hour Contribution Report	Candidates	GC 82036, 82036.5, 84203.3, 84204, 84215(e), 85204, 85309	-90 to 0	8/5/2026 to 11/3/2026
<p>Late Contributions and Independent Expenditures of \$1,000 or more must be filed withing 24 hours of the transaction.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Form 496 or Form 497 must be filed with the appropriate filing officer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Form 462 is required only for certain independent expenditures related to state candidates. (Title 2, Cal. Code Regs §18422.5)</p>				
Administrative Deadline to File a Measure Rebuttal	Proponents & Opponents	9167, 9285, 9286, 9317	-92	8/3/2026
<p>The deadline to file rebuttal arguments for and against a measure (250-word limit).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10-Day Public Examination Period: August 4 - August 13</p>				
County Counsel Impartial Analysis Available	Public	9160, 9280, 9313, 9314, 9500	-88	8/7/2026
<p><input type="checkbox"/> 10-Day Public Examination Period: August 8 - August 17</p>				
Last day to file or withdraw Nomination Documents	Candidates & ROV	8020, 8800, 10220, 10407, GC 87201	-88	8/7/2026
<p>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.</p>				
Nomination Period Extension	Candidates	10516	-87 to -83	8/8/2026 to 8/12/2026
<p>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 83rd 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.</p>				
Public Examination Period for Candidate Statements, Candidate Names and Ballot Designations	Public	9190, 9295, 9380, 9509 & 13313	-87 to -78	8/8/2026 to 8/17/2026
<p>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.</p>				
Candidate Statement of Qualifications Withdrawal	Candidates	1337(3))	-83	8/12/2026
<p>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.</p>				
Last Day to Withdraw a Local Measure	Proponents	9605	-83	8/12/2026
<p>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.</p>				



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Party Endorsement List	Political Parties	13302(b)	-83	8/12/2026
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	8/13/2026
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	8/13/2026
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 83rd Day	Public	13313	-82 to -73	8/13/2026 to 8/22/2026
The public examination period for Statements of Qualifications submitted during an extended nomination period.				
Certified List of Candidates – Federal and State Office	Secretary of State	8148	-68	8/27/2026
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	9/4/2026 to 9/19/2026
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	9/7/2026 to 10/20/2026
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	9/24/2026 to 10/13/2026
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 September 4, 2026 (E-60).				
First Pre-election Financial Statement Due	Candidates	84200.5, 84200, 84218	-40	9/24/2026
The last day for candidates listed on the ballot to file a Form 460 or Form 470 First Pre-election Statement. • Period Covered: July 1 - September 19, 2026				
Vote-by-Mail Ballots Mailed to all Voters	ROV	3001, 3003, 3017, 3021	-29	10/5/2026
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.				



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Process Vote-by-Mail Ballots	ROV	15101	-29	10/5/2026
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	10/5/2026
24-hour official county ballot drop off locations open to receive ballots.				
Close of Registration	ROV	2102, 2107, 2115, 2116, 2152	-15	10/19/2026
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	10/20/2026 to 11/3/2026
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	-12	10/22/2026
The last day for committees to file a Form 460 Second Pre-election Statement. Period covered: September 20 - October 17, 2026				
Notice of Central Counting Place	ROV	12109	-10	10/24/2026
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(c)(6)	-7	10/27/2026
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 general election.				
Vote-by-Mail Ballots	Voters/ROV	3001, 3021	-7	10/27/2026
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	11/3/2026
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	11/5/2026
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	11/10/2026
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 seven 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	12/3/2026
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	12/1/2026
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	12/11/2026
The deadline for the SOS to compile and file the Statement of the Votes for this election.				
Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due	Candidates/Committee	G.C. §§84200, 84218	Refer to FPPC Filing Schedule	
All elected officers, candidates, and committees filing campaign statements in connection with the election must file a semi-annual statement pursuant to Government Code §§84200 and 84218 due February 1, 2027, covering the period from October 18, 2026 through December 31, 2026, with the reporting period beginning the day after the closing date of the last statement filed, or January 1 if no previous statement has been filed.				



Fair Political Practices Commission

Filing Schedule for State Candidates and their Controlled Committees Listed on the November 3, 2026 Ballot

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Within 10 Business Days <i>\$5,000 Report</i>	Ongoing (File anytime other than the 90-day election cycle)	497	Only E-filers file this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> File if a contribution of \$5,000 or more is received from a single source. No paper copy is required. File within ten business days of receipt of contribution.
Within 24 Hours <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	8/5/26 – 11/3/26	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 <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot, or made 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. E-file only. No paper copy is required.
Jul 31, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	* – 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.
Sep 24, 2026 <i>1st pre-Election</i>	7/1/26 – 9/19/26	460 or 470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
Oct 22, 2026 <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	9/20/26 – 10/17/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file this statement. Paper copies must be filed by personal delivery, guaranteed overnight service, or by email with a verified digital signature.
Feb 1, 2027 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	10/18/26 – 12/31/26	460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.

See next page for additional reporting information.



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Additional Reports

Depending on committee activity, one or more of the following statements may also be required:

- **Payments Related to a State Ballot Measure (E-filers only):** File Form 496 (24-hour/10-day Independent Expenditure Report) or Form 497 (24-hour/10-day Contribution Report) within ten business days of making payments totaling \$5,000 or more in connection with a single state ballot measure. No paper copy is required.
- **Form 511:** File within 10 days of making either of the following expenditures related to an advertisement to support or oppose a ballot measure: 1) A payment totaling \$5,000 or more to an individual to appear in an advertisement, or 2) A payment of any amount to an individual portraying a member of a licensed occupation (e.g., nurse, doctor, firefighter). **E-filers must also file a paper copy.****
- **Form E-530:** File within 48 hours of making a payment, or a promise of payment, of \$50,000 or more during the 45 days prior to an election for a communication that identifies a state candidate listed on the ballot but does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of the candidate. No paper copy is required.

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.
- ****Paper Filings:** Unless otherwise noted, all paper filings may be filed by email with a verified digital signature. Persons required to file a report or statement by paper with the Secretary of State's Office *may* instead file by email (digitalfiling@sos.ca.gov) with a verified digital signature or other secure digital means as prescribed by the Secretary of State's Office. Please visit the Secretary of State's [website](#) for more information on how to file with a digital signature.
- **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.
- **Where to File:** State committees file statements with the Secretary of State. Candidate-controlled committees that are not e-filers file paper copies with the elections official in the candidate's county of domicile.
- **Form 501:** All candidates must file Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement) before soliciting/receiving contributions.
- **E-File:** A state committee that has received contributions or made expenditures totaling \$25,000 or more.
- **Form 460:** All state committees, including e-filers, must also file paper copies.**
- **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 September 24, 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.
- **Forms 496 and Form 497:** All reports filed online only.



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- **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.
- **Multiple Committees:** All committees controlled by a state candidate listed on the November ballot must file statements on the pre-election filing deadlines and the committee formed for this election. For example, a candidate for Senate listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot maintains an Assembly officeholder committee must file pre-election statements for both committees even if the Assembly committee has not received or made payments.
- **State Contribution Limits:** Refer to the [contribution limits chart](#) on the FPPC website.
- **Penalties:** Late statements and reports are subject to a fine of \$10 per day on both paper and the e-filed version (i.e., \$20 per day for a late Form 460). Failure to file a statement or report could result in an enforcement penalty of \$5,000 per violation.
- **After the Election:** Reporting requirements will depend on whether the candidate is successful and whether a campaign committee is open. See [Campaign Disclosure Manual 1](#) 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 www.fppc.ca.gov > Learn > Campaign Rules.