

FPPC Form 501 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which districts and offices are in the upcoming election?

A: The districts and offices that are in the upcoming election, are as followed:

- State and local office Run-Off Candidates
- School Board (Elementary, High School, Unified and College School District's)
- Special District's (Community, Fire, Health, Parks, Sanitary, and Water District's)
- City candidates (for the City of San José, only Run-off candidates, if any, are in the General Election)
- This information can also be found in the Candidate Guide on the Registrar's website. Under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the November 3, 2020 election. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: When is the nomination period?

A: The nomination period for the November 3, 2020 election opens on July 13, 2020 through August 7, 2020. For a copy of the Abbreviated Election Calendar with all of the filing deadlines associated with the General election, visit the Registrar's website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the November 3, 2020 election. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: Who has filed for a particular office?

A: For information regarding the filing status for all offices, a copy of the Unofficial Contest/Candidate list will be posted every day. This report is updated on a daily basis during the nomination period. Visit the Registrar's website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the November 3, 2020 election. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: How can I find out who is currently in office?

A: For a list of Candidates currently in office, the Candidate Service's department has an Officeholders List with all the current officeholders. This is available on the Registrar's website under the Candidates and Measures tab, click on the Office Holders List. We also provide this information in the office and over the phone.

Q: Where can I find a candidate's contact information?

A: During the nomination period, candidate files containing contact information are available for viewing in the Registrar of Voters office during office hours.

After the close of the nomination period, the Qualified Candidate List with contact information is available for public review/copy in the Registrar of Voters office during office hours.

The Registrar of Voters office is located at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: How do I find out information on campaign committees?

A: To search for committee information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, select FPPC Campaign Finance Filings. Then, click on the public access portal option to search and view filings. Type in the last name of the candidate in the "Search by Name" field to start the search. Next, select the name of filer from the results list. Contact the Candidate Services Division at 408-282-3000 should you need further assistance.

Q: What is a FPPC Form 501?

A: The FPPC Form 501 is the Candidate Intention Statement filed by a candidate to indicate their intention to run for office. This form must be filed before the candidate solicits or spends any campaign funds.

Q: How can I find out which candidates have filed a Form 501?

A: To search for candidate information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, select FPPC Campaign Finance Filings. Then, click on the public access portal to search and view filings.

Scroll down to the "Browse Candidates & Measures by Election" section, select the date of the election you are researching, click the button by "Candidates" to show the list of contests, click the button by the contest to show name of candidates who have filed the Form 501. Contact the Candidate Services Division at 408-282-3000 should you need further assistance.

Q: How can I find out when a candidate filed their Form 501?

A: To search for candidate information and filing status, please follow the steps below:

From the Candidates & Measures pull down menu, select FPPC Campaign Finance Filings. Then, click on the public access portal to search and view filings.

Put in the last name of the person in the "Search By Name" field to start the search. Then, select the name of the filer from the results list. The date the form was filed is listed under the "Filing Date" column at the filer page. Contact the Candidate Services Division at 408-282-3000 should you need further assistance.

Q: How can I find out the date of the election related to the Form 501 filed?

A: This information is only available in the Registrar of Voters office. Please contact the Candidate Services Division at 408-282-3000, or visit the Registrar of Voters office at 1555 Berger Drive, Building 2, San Jose, CA 95112 during our office hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: What is the threshold that requires a candidate to file a FPPC Form 410?

A: When two thousand dollars (\$2,000) of contributions have been received. (Government Code section 82013)

County Voluntary Expenditure Limits Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the County have an ordinance for contribution limits?

A: Yes. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted [Ordinance No. NS-19.40](#) on August 27, 2013 which places limitations on the amount of contributions made to and received by a candidate for county office. The text of the ordinance is below:

ORDINANCE NO. NS-19.40

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AMENDING SECTIONS A35-1, A35-2 AND A35-3 OF CHAPTERS I AND II OF DIVISION A35 OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE RELATING TO CAMPAIGN AND OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Summary

This Ordinance institutes limits for contributions to officeholders and updates campaign contribution limits.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The title of Division 35 of Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is hereby amended to read as follows:

Division A35 LIMITATIONS ON CAMPAIGN AND OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS

SECTION 2: Section 1 of Chapter I of Division A35 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara relating to the purpose of the County's campaign and officeholder contribution ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. A35-1. Purpose.

- (a) The purpose of this division is to place voluntary limits upon the total amount of money that may be spent from contributions to an election campaign for the offices of Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, and County Assessor.
- (b) The purpose of this division is also to provide rules for campaign contributions for County offices and for contributions to County officeholders that are clear, that serve the interests of the County's voters while complying with U.S. Supreme Court precedents, and that provide fair notice to candidates and officeholders of such rules.
- (c) Further, the purpose of this division is to encourage participation by the public as candidates in County elections by clarifying regulations applicable to such contests.

SECTION 3. The title of Chapter II of Division A35 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara relating to campaign and officeholder contributions is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER II CAMPAIGN AND OFFICEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS AND VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE CEILINGS

SECTION 4. Section 2 of Chapter II of Division A35 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara relating to campaign and officeholder contribution limits is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. A35-2. Contribution limits.

- (a) No person shall make to any candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, or County Assessor, or to such candidate's controlled committee, and no such candidate's controlled committee shall accept from any person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than \$500.00 for each election in which the candidate is attempting to be on the ballot or is a write-in candidate for such office.
- (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, if a candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, or County Assessor accepts the expenditure limits set forth in Section A35-3(a), no person shall make to any candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, or County Assessor, or to the candidate's controlled committee, and no candidate for such office or the candidate's controlled committee shall accept from any person a contribution or contributions totaling more than \$1,000.00 for each election.
- (c) No person shall contribute to a County officeholder, including a Supervisor, District Attorney, Sheriff or Assessor, and no County officeholder shall accept from any person, a contribution or contributions totaling more than \$1,000.00 per calendar year for the purpose of defraying expenses related to holding office as defined below in Section A35-2(d).
- (d) County officeholders may use contributions made pursuant to Section A35-2(c) ("officeholder funds") for all lawful purposes under state law and regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, but may not use such officeholder funds to pay "campaign expenses" as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 18525(a)(1)-(4).
- (e) Unspent campaign funds from a past campaign shall not count toward the officeholder contribution limit in this section.
- (f) The contribution limits of this section do not apply to:
 - (i) A candidate's or officeholder's expenditure of his or her personal funds for campaign or officeholder purposes respectively; or
 - (ii) Personal loans made by the candidate or officeholder for campaign or officeholder purposes respectively.
- (g) Notwithstanding subsection (f), any payment made by anyone other than the candidate or officeholder to reduce the amount of any loan made for campaign or officeholder purposes shall remain subject to the applicable contribution limits of this section.

SECTION 5. Section 3 of Chapter II of Division A35 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara relating to voluntary expenditure ceilings is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec: A35-3, Voluntary expenditure ceiling.

- (a) The County of Santa Clara hereby establishes voluntary expenditure ceilings for candidates for the office of Board of Supervisors, and for the controlled committees of candidates for the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$250,000.00 total expenditure per election for such office, excepting expenditure of personal funds made by the candidate.

The County of Santa Clara hereby establishes voluntary expenditure ceilings for candidates for the office of District Attorney, County Sheriff, and County Assessor, and for the controlled committees of

such candidates in the amount of \$500,000.00 total expenditure per election for such office, excepting expenditure of personal funds made by the candidate.

- (b) Each candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff and County Assessor shall file with the Registrar of Voters of the County of Santa Clara a written statement of acceptance or rejection of the voluntary expenditure ceilings before accepting any contributions. Candidates who accept the expenditure ceiling set forth in this section shall not be subject to the contribution limitation set forth in Section A35-2(a) of \$500.00, but rather shall be subject to the contribution limits set forth in Section A3S-2(b) of \$1,000.00.
- (c) If a candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff or County Assessor declines to accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling set forth in Section A35-3(a) the candidate shall be subject to the contribution limits set forth in Section A3S-2(a) of \$500.00.
- (d) Any candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, or County Assessor who declined to accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling set forth in Section A35-3(a), but who nevertheless did not exceed the recommended spending limits in the primary, special primary, or special election, may file a statement of acceptance of the spending limits for a general or special runoff election within 14 days following the primary, special primary, or special election and receive all the benefits accompanying such an agreement specified in this chapter.

Q: Does the County ordinance only apply to candidates for county offices?

A: Yes, the County of Santa Clara ordinance only applies to candidates filing for county offices:

- County Supervisor
- County Assessor
- Sheriff
- District Attorney

Q: How can I find out if a candidate for a county office has accepted the Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement?

A: Information on which candidates have accepted the Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement can be found by visiting www.sccvote.org/candidatesandmeasuresinformation and clicking on the document titled "List of Candidates Accepting Expenditure Limits."

This information is also available by contacting the Candidate Services Division at (408) 282-3000 or visiting the Registrar of Voters Office at 1555 Berger Drive, Build 2, San Jose, CA 95112 during the office hours of Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: When is the deadline to file the Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement?

A: We recommend the Voluntary Expenditure Ceiling Limit Agreement be submitted to the Registrar of Voters office when the Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) is filed. The Form 501 must be filed before the candidate solicits or spends any campaign fund. Copies of both forms can be viewed on next page:

Candidate Intention Statement

Type or Print In Ink.

Date Form

CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT
CALIFORNIA FORM 501
 For Office Use Only

Check One: Initial Amendment (Date: _____)

1. Candidate Information:

NAME OF CANDIDATE (Last, First, Middle Initial): _____ DURING TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER (optional): _____ E-MAIL (optional): _____
 STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
 OFFICE/SIGHT POSITION/TITLE: _____ AGENCY NAME: _____ DISTRICT NUMBER, if applicable: NON-PARTISAN DISTRICT: _____
 OFFICE JURISDICTION:
 State (with district): _____
 City County Multi-County: _____ (Name of Regional Government) _____ (Name of County)

2. State Candidate Expenditure Limit Statement:

(Use Form and California Candidate, Party, Public Candidate, and Candidates for Court Offices as our complete Part 2.)

Type of Election: **Primary/general election** (Type of Election: **Special/ runoff election**)
 (Check the box)
 I accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the election stated above.
 I do not accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the election stated above.
 Amendment:
 I did not exceed the expenditure ceiling in the primary or special election held on _____/_____/_____ and I accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the general or special run-off election.
 (Check the box)
 On _____/_____/_____, I contributed personal funds in excess of the expenditure ceiling for the election stated above.

3. Verification:

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed by: _____ (Name) Signature: _____ (Candidate)

Clear Form

Print Form

PPPC Form 501 (April 2014)
 PPPC Toll-Free Help Line: 888/338-PPPC (888/376-2772)

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
 Santa Clara County

VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE CEILING LIMIT AGREEMENT UPDATE

Pursuant to Section A35-3 of the Santa Clara County Ordinance Code

For use ONLY for candidates who rejected the voluntary expenditure ceiling initially for both the election and run-off election and, within 14 days of the initial election held in conjunction with the statewide primary, subsequently wish to change their prior declaration to now accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling for the run-off election.

I, _____ (Name)

candidate for _____ (Office Title)

hereby confirm that for the election held in conjunction with the statewide primary, my campaign did not exceed the recommended spending limit* of \$ _____, and I

hereby accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling limit* of \$ _____ as set forth

in County Ordinance Code Section A35-3, for the run-off/general election to be held in conjunction with the statewide general election on

_____, (Date of run-off/general election)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* \$250,000 limit for the office of Board of Supervisors
 \$500,000 limit for the offices of Assessor, District Attorney and Sheriff

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
 Santa Clara County

VOLUNTARY EXPENDITURE CEILING LIMIT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Section A35-3 of the Santa Clara County Ordinance Code

I, _____ (Name)

candidate for _____ (Office Title)

hereby declare the acceptance / rejection of the voluntary expenditure ceiling limit of \$ _____ per election as set forth in County Ordinance Code

Section A35-3, for the following election (primary) and, if relevant, the related run-off/general election:

_____, (Date of election/primary)

I accept for both the (primary) election and, if relevant, the (general) run-off election.
 I reject for both the (primary) election and, if relevant, the (general) run-off election.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

* \$250,000 limit for the office of Board of Supervisors
 \$500,000 limit for the offices of Assessor, District Attorney and Sheriff

Q: What are the voluntary expenditure limits for county offices?

A: Voluntary expenditure limits for county offices are as follows:

Board of Supervisors: \$250,000/election.

Assessor, District Attorney and Sheriff: \$500,000/election.

Q: Does the voluntary expenditure limit apply to personal funds contributed by the candidate?

A: No, the voluntary expenditure limit does not include personal funds from the candidate.

Q: What is the total amount of contribution an individual can make to a candidate?

A: The total amount of contribution an individual can make is as follows:

If the candidate **agrees** to the voluntary expenditure limit, an individual may contribute up to \$1,000/election.

If the candidate **does not agree** to the voluntary expenditure limit, an individual may contribute up to \$500/election.

Q: What happens if a candidate changes his mind after signing and filing the Voluntary Expenditure Limit?

A: As set forth in Chapter 1, Section A-35-3(d) "Any candidate for the Board of Supervisors, District Attorney, County Sheriff, or County Assessor who declined to accept the voluntary expenditure ceiling set forth in Section A35-3(a), but who nevertheless did not exceed the recommended spending limits in the primary, special primary, or special election, may file a statement of acceptance of the spending limits for a general or special runoff election within 14 days following the primary, special primary, or special election and receive all the benefits accompanying such an agreement specified in this chapter."