

# News Release

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## **Petitions to Collect Signatures to Pay Candidate Filing Fees Now Available**

Candidates interested in running for an office on the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary ballot may obtain petitions from the Santa Cruz County Elections Department to collect signatures to cover all or part of the filing fee required to run for office.

Filing fees for the various offices up for election are based on 1 or 2 percent of the annual salary. Fees range from \$3,480 for U.S. Senator to \$1,011 for State Assembly. Candidates may collect signatures that have a specific value per signature to cover all or part of the filing fee. Signature In-Lieu Petitions may be obtained from the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department, located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 210 in Santa Cruz. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on weekends and holidays.

Candidates for Superior Court Judge must file their Petitions In-Lieu by February 10 because candidates for judge are the only one who must also file a Declaration of Intention, a form declaring their candidacy for Judge. The Declaration of Intention for judicial candidates must be filed between February 11 and February 15.

All other offices have until February 25, 2016 to file their Petitions In-Lieu. Those offices include:

- U.S. Senate
- 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts;
- 17<sup>th</sup> State Senate District
- 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly Districts;
- District Attorney-Public Administrator (up for a 2-year term)
- Auditor-Controller & Treasurer-Tax Collector (up for a 2-year term)
- County Supervisors in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts

Other offices on the ballot that do not require a filing fee, but will require nomination signatures during the filing period from January 4 to March 11 are:

- Democratic and Republican County Central Committees who are elected by Supervisorial

District; and

- Peace and Freedom Party County Central Committee and Green Party County Council who are elected at-large.

The other political parties, American Independent Party and Libertarian Party have decided to select their members without using the June ballot which is allowed by law.

Also on the June 7, 2016 ballot is the San Benito County Board of Education Trustee Area 2. Candidates for that office do not have to file signature petitions, only a Declaration of Candidacy.

Another important candidate filing period is February 15 to March 11. During this time, candidates file the following documents:

- Declaration of Candidacy filing for all candidates;
- Nomination Papers filing for all candidates except County Board of Education. Candidates must file a specified number of valid signatures on a Nomination Petition in order to have his or her name on the primary ballot;
- Candidate's Statement of Qualifications is optional for candidates running for Superior Court Judge, Board of Supervisors, County Offices, and Board of Education. Statements not exceeding 200 words must be filed and paid for at the time of filing the candidate's Declaration of Candidacy. Candidates for State Senate and Assembly may file a 250-word statement by the deadline if he or she has agreed to adhere to the spending limits pursuant to Proposition 34. Candidates for Congress may also file a 250-word candidate statement for printing in the county Voter Information Guide by the March 11 deadline.

A "Candidate's Handbook" detailing deadlines, forms, candidate filing requirements, and election processes for the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election is available from the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 831-454-2060. Candidate's handbooks are also available online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com). In addition, a daily update of candidates who have taken out papers or have filed is available online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com) as well as other important information regarding the June Primary.

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