

Questions About Running For Office

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What are the residency and eligibility requirement for candidates?

The Long Beach City Charter states residency and eligibility requirements for candidates. Please see Sections 201 and 502 of the Long Beach City Charter. The Long Beach City Charter is available on this web site.

What is the candidate filing fee?

LBMC 1.25.020 states, "A filing fee in the amount of two hundred dollars shall be paid to the City Clerk upon the filing of a nomination petition for any elective office of the City."

What if I change my mind about being a candidate after filing nomination papers?

Nomination documents must be received by the City Clerk Department by the 88th day prior to the election. A candidate may withdraw his/her nomination paper up until this time, but not after (California Elections Code Section 10224). If nomination documents for an incumbent are not received by E-88, the nomination period for that office is extended to the 83rd day prior to the election.

If I submit the optional candidate's statement and I change my mind, may I withdraw the statement?

The candidate's statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period (California Elections Code Section 13307).

What determines the order in which my name and other candidates names will appear on the ballot?

The California Secretary of State will conduct a randomized alphabet drawing for the election the Wednesday following the date for close of nominations.

When can I start raising and spending money on my campaign?

A candidate may begin raising money at the start of the election cycle. The election cycle begins on January 1 of an odd-numbered year and ending with September 1 of the following year for primary and general elections (LBMC 2.01). For special elections, the election cycle begins on the date that a vacancy is declared in the office being sought (LBMC 2.01.210 B).

Prior to raising funds a candidate must file a Form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement). You may go to the California Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.ca.gov/prd/forms/501.pdf> or the City Clerk Department can issue one to you.

Please contact the Elections Division at (562) 570-6101 for more information.

May a candidate appoint him/herself as his/her own campaign treasurer?

Yes, a candidate may be his/her own committee treasurer.

What is considered a "contribution"?

A contribution includes monetary payments, loans and non-monetary goods or services.

What are the contributions limits?

The contribution limits for elections can be found in the Campaign Contribution Limits website:

www.longbeach.gov/cityclerk/elections/candinfo/campaign_fiance_reporting

Are non-monetary contributions subject to the same limitations as monetary contributions?

Yes. Nonmonetary contributions are goods and services for which you have not paid the fair market value (FMV). The FMV of a nonmonetary contribution is the amount it would cost to purchase the goods or services on the open market. Please see the instructions for Schedule C of California Form 460 for further information on nonmonetary contributions.