**News Release**

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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**Candidate Filing for Local Political Party Committees Begins Friday**

Persons interested in running for one of the political party County Central Committees or County Council can pick up candidate papers beginning Friday, September 27, from the Santa Cruz County Elections office located at 701 Ocean St., Room 310.

The Democratic and Republican County Central Committees elect their members by supervisorial district. The Green, Libertarian and Peace and Freedom party committees are elected at-large. The American Independent Party has opted not to use the ballot to elect its members, instead their members will be selected by caucus or convention.

Candidates for all parties, except the Peace and Freedom Party, must file a nomination petition with 20 valid signatures of voters. The Peace and Freedom Party candidates must collect 13 valid signatures.

All candidates for County Central Committee or County Council must also file a Declaration of Candidacy providing their name and ballot designation for the ballot. If there are an insufficient number of nominees, the candidates will be appointed in-lieu of election.

The deadline to file candidacy papers is 5pm, Friday, December 6. To be eligible, candidates must be registered with the political party for the office they are seeking for not less than three months or for as long as they have been registered to vote in California. Also, candidates shall not have been registered with any other qualified party for 12 months immediately prior to the filing of the Declaration of Candidacy.

Voters must be registered with the political party to vote on candidates running for County Central Committee or County Council.

Other Offices on the March 2020 ballot include:

* President;
* 18th and 20th Congressional Districts;
* 29th and 30th Assembly Districts;
* 7 Superior Court judges;
* County Supervisors for the 1st, 2nd and 5th Districts; and
* San Benito County Board of Education, Trustee Area 2.

A *“Candidate’s Handbook”* detailing candidate qualifications, deadlines, and other important candidate information for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election is available from the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 701 Ocean St., Room 310, Santa Cruz or online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com). The office is open 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, 831-454-2060.

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