**News Release**

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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**Petitions to Pay Candidate Filing Fees Available September 12**

Candidates interested in running for an office on the March 3, 2020 primary ballot may take out petitions to secure signatures to cover all or part of the filing fee required to run for office starting Thursday, September 12.

Filing fees for the various offices up for election are based on 1 percent of the annual salary. Fees range from $2,000.42 for Judge to $1,104.59 for State Senator or State Assembly Member. 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 310 in Santa Cruz. The last day to file Signature In-Lieu Petitions for the following offices on the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election ballot is November 6, 2019:

* US Congress, 18th and 20th Districts
* State Senate, 17th District
* State Assembly, 29th and 30th Districts
* County Supervisor, 1st, 2nd and 5th Districts
* 7 Superior Court Judges

Candidates for Superior Court Judge must file their Signature In-Lieu Petitions before they file their Declaration of Intention from October 28 to November 6.

Another important candidate filing period is November 11 to December 6. During this time, candidates for all offices listed above:

* Declaration of Candidacy for all candidates;
* Nomination Papers for all candidates. Candidates must file a specified number of valid signatures on a Nomination Petition to have their name on the primary ballot. The County Clerk will apply valid Signatures In-Lieu toward the nomination signature requirement;
* Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications is optional for candidates running for Superior Court Judge and County Board of Supervisors. Candidates for state offices may file a statement by the deadline if they have agreed to adhere to the spending limits pursuant to Proposition 34. Candidates for Congress may also file a candidate statement for printing in the Voter Information Guide.

A “Candidate’s Handbook” detailing deadlines, forms, candidate filing requirements, and election processes 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. 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 March Primary.

Persons interested in running for County Central Committee or County Council may obtain their nomination documents starting September 27. Documents must be filed by December 6. There is a separate handbook for political party committee candidates.

For more information, please call 831-454-2060, visit us online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com) or email us at [gail.pellerin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:gail.pellerin@santacruzcounty.us)

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