



CANDIDATE STATEMENT FORM - NONPARTISAN OFFICES INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

(Elections Code Sections 13307, 13308, 13311, and 13313)

READ INFORMATION ON BACK OF FORM BEFORE SUBMITTING STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF: *Ernie Vargas*
CANDIDATE FOR: *Member of City Council*
ELECTION DATE: *Nov 5, 2024*
AGE: *72*
OCCUPATION: *Retired*

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS INFORMATION BEFORE PURCHASING A CANDIDATE STATEMENT.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk makes every effort to mail Sample Ballots/Candidate Statements as early as possible during the voting period and prior to the voters' receipt of their Vote By Mail ballots. However, this is not always possible due to the volume of material and the complexity of coordinating mail distribution. For mailing timelines and more information, see Section 1 Chapter 3 Page 31 of the Candidate Handbook and Resource Guide.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Filing of a statement is optional and applies to local nonpartisan offices. The elections official sends to each registered voter an Official Sample Ballot Booklet which contains the candidate statements prepared and submitted.

FILING PERIOD: Statement must be filed no later than the close of business hours on the last day of the candidate nomination period.

WITHDRAWAL: A candidate statement cannot be changed or revised once it is filed. A candidate statement may be withdrawn by 5 p.m. of the next business day after the last day to file the statement.

CONTENTS: Statement may include candidate's age and occupation and a 200 words description of the candidate's education and qualifications. Some jurisdictions increase the word limit to 400 words.

FORMAT/WORD COUNT: Please refer to the Candidate Handbook (Section 1 Chapter 3) for detailed information regarding format and word counting guidelines.

RESTRICTIONS: The candidate statement shall not include the party affiliation of the candidate nor reference any membership or activity in political organizations. Please refer to the Candidate Handbook (Section 1 Chapter 3) for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – PLEASE READ

CANDIDATE STATEMENT ESTIMATED COST: Please be advised that your candidate statement will only appear online and **NOT** in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet, if you select ONLINE ONLY (English) under "ESTIMATED COST" in the estimated cost section located on page 4. You must select "Print & Online" for the statement to be printed in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION PERIOD: Candidate statements shall be confidential until the close of the nomination period. Once the nomination period closes, the statements are open to public examination for a ten (10) calendar day period. During the examination period, candidate listings, candidate statements, candidate names and ballot designations (or occupation) on ballot shall be open to public examination. Any person may file a writ of mandate or an injunction to challenge and possibly amend any or all of the material/data (E.C. 13313). If the filing period is extended for a particular office, the examination period for that office shall be adjusted. A fee may be charged to any candidate/person obtaining a copy of the material.

CANDIDATES FILING IN SHARED DISTRICTS: Your candidate statement must be filed with the county elections official in each county where you wish to have your statement printed (e.g., if you wish to have your statement printed in both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, then you must submit one

(1) copy of your statement and the appropriate fee to each county where you intend to have your statement appear in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet).

The elections official will not forward your candidate statement or estimated shared cost to neighboring counties.

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Please type your statement in the **first column** using upper- and lower-case letters. The statement text will be typeset using font style Times New Roman, size 11-point or a comparable size and style determined by system requirements. We recommend you use Times New Romans, 11-point font when submitting your statement even though it will later be formatted to fit system requirements. The **second column** is for additional space for the candidate statement of a single Candidate who would like a two (2) column statement (within the word limit, if word limits apply) or the second column space will be populated with the next candidate statement by another Candidate in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet. The format and style of the candidate statement are in a column width (newspaper) style and the estimated cost of the candidate statement is derived from per column use.

NOTE: Spanish may be longer than the English version, so the statement may continue over into the second column for an estimated cost of two (2) columns. For more information, please contact the Election Planning Section at electionplanning@rcc.lacounty.gov.

I came to Hawaiian Gardens in 1965 as a freshman in high school. After graduation I attended Cerritos Jr. College. In 1974 I was hired as a Recreation Leader/Sports Coordinator for the City of Hawaiian Gardens until 1977. In 1986 I returned to the city and proposed a program titled Alternative to Gang Membership. I was hired in July of 86 as the Neighborhood Counselor. For 34 years this program was designed to help keep youth from joining a gang in our community. The program consisted of a teaching curriculum taught in the schools. It taught kid's reasons why they shouldn't join a gang. The program also provided additional alternative activities. I retired in January 2021, since that time the program is no longer existing in our city, along with many additional programs it provided. The true success of our city is to invest in the youth of our community. Kids that graduate have an opportunity to attend college or a trade school of their choice. Youth who can be employed in life have meaning and purpose for a successful future. As a council member I wish to continue the founding fathers motto of our City "Our Youth Our Future".