**News Release**

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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July 14, 2020

Contact: Gail L. Pellerin, County Clerk

831-454-2419 / 408-316-9745 (cell)

**Candidate Filing for November Election is happening now through August 7**

Candidates interested in running for any of the school or special districts or city offices up for election on November 3, 2020 may file candidate papers with either the Santa Cruz County Elections Department for districts, or the appropriate City Clerks’ Office for city offices now through 5pm, Friday, August 7.

In order to protect the health and safety of candidates and county elections officials, candidates must first complete a Preliminary Candidate Information worksheet on the Santa Cruz County Elections website at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us), email it to the office, and then make an appointment to come in to file the required documents. All documents to be filed are posted online at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us). Candidates should complete the documents, print them at home and bring them to their appointment. The Declaration of Candidacy will be prepared at the office since it must be signed in front of an elections official or notary. If a candidate is unable to personally appear at the office, please contact County Clerk Gail Pellerin at 831-454-2419 or info@votescount.us and other arrangements will be made.

Filing for the local offices up for election will end on August 7 unless the incumbent (who is not termed out) does not file. In that case, filing will be extended until 5pm on August 10.

A complete list of offices on the ballot are available online at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us) Interested persons can also look up their address to see which districts they reside in at <https://electiondatalookup.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

Offices up for election in November include boards of education, community college boards, unified and high school district boards, elementary school district boards, fire protection district boards, water district boards, port district commission, recreation district boards, other miscellaneous boards, as well as city council members in the four cities.

A person is eligible to be elected or appointed to the school and special district boards if that person is:

* 18 years of age and a citizen of the state at the time of his/her election or appointment (Government Code §1020)
* a registered voter of the district or division and otherwise qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued to the person or at the time of the person's appointment. (Elections Code §201; Government Code §24001, Public Resources Code 5784, 5784.1). For the resource conservation district, appointees must be a registered voter of the state who 1) resides in the district and either owns real property or have served two years or more as an associate director providing advisory assistance to the board, or 2) be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district. (Public Resources Code §9352)

Candidates who file for Capitola and Scotts Valley City office must be a registered voter of the city. Candidates for Santa Cruz City Council must be a qualified voter of the city for at least 30 days preceding nomination or appointment. Candidates running for Watsonville City Council must be a resident and registered voter of the City and the District for 30 days preceding the opening date for the filing of nomination papers.

All candidates for City office must file a Nomination Petition with 20 valid signatures to have their name placed on the November ballot. In addition, Declarations of Candidacy must be filed with the appropriate City Clerk’s Office.

* Capitola City Clerk’s Office – 420 Capitola Ave., Capitola, CA 95010, 831-475-7300
* Santa Cruz City Clerk’s Office – 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, 831-420-5038
* Scotts Valley City Clerk’s Office – 1 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley, CA 95066, 831-440-5600
* Watsonville City Clerk’s Office – 275 Main St., 4th Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076, 831-768-3040

Declarations of Candidacy and Nomination Petitions for city office must be filed between July 13 and August 7 with the City Clerk’s Office. Declarations of Candidacy and Nomination Petitions will not be accepted after 5pm on Friday, August 7 unless the incumbent who is not termed out of office does not file; under that scenario, the filing deadline is extended five days to 5pm, Wednesday, August 10 for anyone other than the incumbent to file.

Appointment to each elective office will be made as prescribed by Elections Code §10515, §10229 and Education Code §5326, 5328 and 5328.5 if there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees for the office and a petition for election is not filed with the elections official within the time prescribed by the code sections listed above.

At the time the candidate files a Declaration of Candidacy, candidates have the option of submitting a 200-word Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications to be published in the County Voter Information Guide and posted online at the candidate’s expense.

Because there are strict rules and laws governing candidate filing, interested persons are encouraged to download the Candidate’s Handbook at [www.votescount.us](http://www.votescount.us) or call the Elections Department at 831-454-2060. Candidates for City Council should contact the City Clerk in their city of residence.

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