

CANDIDATES - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q: Is there a fee involved in filing for office?
- A: Yes. There is a \$25 filing fee for municipal office in Pacific Grove. Additionally, if a candidate files a Candidate's Statement (Optional), they must include a fee to be determined by the Monterey County Elections Department. s
- Q: Is the City Clerk/Election Official's office open during the lunch hour?
- A: No. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays. The City Clerk's office is requiring appointments.
- Q: What happens if I change my mind about running for office after filing nomination papers?
- A: You may withdraw as a candidate at any time prior to the close of the nomination period. You are not permitted to withdraw after that date, and your name will appear on the ballot.
- Q: What happens if some of the signatures I obtain on my nomination papers are not registered voters or do not live within City limits?
- A: Those signatures would be disqualified and not counted. Set up an appointment to file your nomination papers early to avoid the consequences of a problem of this type. The City Clerk forwards your nomination paper to the ROV to certify the signatures on nomination papers. They require 24-48 hours accomplishing this task. If you wait until the last day to file and for any reason your signatures are insufficient, you will not have qualified to be a candidate. If you file early, there will be time to check the signatures and notify you of any discrepancies. FYI, candidates should not obtain signature from confidential voters/safe at home voters as it makes their information public record.
- Q: When does a candidate's nomination become public?
- A: From the time a candidate "pulls papers" at the City Clerk's Office, his/her name becomes public information. When he or she submits Nomination Paper or files a Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) with the City Clerk, his/her nomination becomes official and is also public information. A full list of candidates will be available in the City Clerk's Office on the first work day following the close of the nomination period. The period closes on Friday, August 7, 2020, or, if an incumbent fails to file, Wednesday, August 12, 2020.
- Q: May I change or correct the wording or spelling on my Candidate's Statement after submission?
- A: No, you may not. Check your Candidate's Statement carefully before submitting. It will be printed exactly as submitted.

Q: If I submit a voluntary Candidate's Statement and I change my mind, may I withdraw the statement?

A: The Candidate's Statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. For the 2020 election, the statement may be withdrawn no later than August 10, 2020.

Q: How many words can my Candidate's Statement include?

A: 200 words. Please refer to the Candidate's Handbook for more detailed information.

Q: Can I mail in my nomination papers or have someone deliver them to the City Clerk for me?

A: While election law does not expressly prohibit another person from filing nomination papers on a candidate's behalf, there are two important reasons why a candidate must file his/her own papers:

1. The Affidavit of the Nominee must be sworn to before the City Clerk.
2. The signature of the candidate, as well as other data, is required on any documents involved in the nomination process. If, through an oversight, the nomination papers are incomplete, the problem can be easily rectified if a candidate files in person.

Q: Do the Mayor and Councilmembers receive monetary compensation?

A: Yes. The Mayor receives \$700 per month, and each Councilmember receives \$420 per month. In addition, expenses incurred for Council-approved business are reimbursed, including mileage and meals.

Q: How often does the City Council meet?

A: The City Council holds its Regular Meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Other adjourned and special meetings are scheduled as City business necessitates.

Q: Why is there so much paperwork involved in being a candidate?

A: State election laws are very specific as to format, filing dates, and other regulatory provisions. The filing dates and other provisions are not discretionary.