



**GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES



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This information is intended to provide general information about the Write-In filing requirements and does not have the force and effect of law, regulation or rule. It is not the intent of the Town of Los Gatos to render legal advice. Accordingly, this information is not a substitute for legal counsel for the individual, organization or candidate using it. In case of any conflict, the law, regulation or rule will apply.

WRITE-IN PERIOD

This is the period when all candidates who would like to be on the ballot as a write-in candidate may fill out and leave their statements of write-in candidacy and nomination papers with the Town Clerk who is the Elections Official for the Town of Los Gatos.

The write-in period for the November General Municipal Election is between **September 7, 2020 and October 20, 2020**. Each candidate must circulate nomination papers for signatures within the jurisdiction between these dates and file them with the Town Clerk for examination with Santa Clara County elections official. In order to be a write-in candidate, a person must be a registered voter in the incorporated limits of Los Gatos.

Candidates must file their forms for write-in candidacy with the Town Clerk in order to be a qualified write-in candidate. They will need to fill out and submit the following documents:

I. A statement of write-in candidacy including:

- Candidate's name
- Residence address
- Declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate
- Title of the office for which he or she is running.
- Date of election

2. The required number of qualified signatures for the office on the nomination papers, which is a minimum of 20.

After the candidate files the statement of write-in candidacy, the Town Clerk will issue to each prospective write-in candidate a nomination paper, Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), a copy of Government Code section 84305 (Literature & Mass Mailing Requirements), and Code of Fair Campaign Practice form.

The statement and nomination papers shall be available on the 57th day prior to the election (September 7), write-in candidates shall file the write-in statement and the nomination papers with the Town Clerk no later than the fourteenth day (October 20) prior to the Election.

Candidates shall also file a "Statement of Economic Interests" with the nomination paper and shall be required to file campaign disclosure forms in the time and manner required by law. For more information, visit the Fair Political Practices Commission website, *Candidate Toolkit* webpage at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/candidate-toolkit-getting-started.html>. Write-in nomination papers shall follow the format of regular nomination papers and will be issued by appointment only by the Town Clerk.

Signers of nomination papers for a write-in council candidate must reside and be registered to vote in the incorporated limits of the Town of Los Gatos.

As required by Los Gatos Municipal Code Chapter, the candidate will pay a filing fee at the time the candidate files candidate nomination papers. The filing fee for write-in candidates is \$25.00.

The Town Clerk shall verify the requisite number of signatures in the same manner as on a regular nomination paper.

Write-in candidates are required to meet the same statutory and constitutional requirements as all others on the ballot.

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Write-in candidates are subject to the same requirements as other candidates with regard to disclosure of economic interests (Form 700) and campaign disclosures.

TALLY OF WRITE-IN VOTES

Write-in votes will be counted and certified only for qualified write-in candidates who file the required forms with the Elections Official no later than **14** days prior to Election Day (October 20, 2020). Any name written upon a ballot for a qualified write-in candidate, including a reasonable facsimile of the spelling of the name, shall be counted for the office, if it is written in the blank space provided and voted as specified. The write-in space will appear on the ballot directly below the list of candidates for that office. Use a pen to write-in the name of the candidate and mark the oval next to the write-in candidate's name. No write-in vote will be counted unless the voting space next to the write-in space is marked as directed by the voting instructions.

PLEASE NOTE: The Town of Los Gatos contracts the election with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voter's office. The Registrar of Voters will provide polling places with a list of the qualified write-in candidates. The list will also be available on the Registrar of Voter's website.