



Running for Local Office



Candidate Information on Getting Started

May 1, 2019

Provided by the Office of the City Clerk
City of Vista, California
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Running for Local Office

The following information is intended to assist residents who are considering a run for local office. This guide is not all-encompassing and only summarizes the basic requirements to establish candidacy.

There are five elected positions in Vista. On June 13, 2017, the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing and implementing [By-District Elections](#) and a map setting the boundaries for each of the four districts. Four council members are elected by voters that live in the district in which the candidate also lives and a Mayor is elected from the city at-large.

General Municipal Elections are conducted every even-numbered year and are consolidated with the State General Election held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November. The next General Municipal Election will be held on November 3, 2020, for the City Council Member seats in Districts 2 & 3.

General Qualifications

Age & Citizenship

A candidate must be 18 years of age and a citizen of the state (Government Code § 1020).

Residency

A candidate must be a resident and registered voter of the district for which they intend to run at the time nomination papers are issued by the City Clerk to run for a seat on the City Council and must remain a resident of that district. Candidates for Mayor must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Vista at the time nomination papers are issued by the City Clerk to run for the seat (California Elections Code §201).

Conviction of Crimes

A person is disqualified from holding any office upon conviction of designated crimes as specified in the Constitution and the laws of the State of California (Government Code §1021).

Getting Started Early

Visit the FPPC's Campaign Section on their website.

Become familiar with the [Fair Political Practices Commission \(FPPC\) website](#).

Review the [FPPC Disclosure Manual 2](#) – Information for local candidates and their primarily formed committees.

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File FPPC forms with the City Clerk and Secretary of State

[File Form 501](#) - Candidate Intention Statement before receiving contributions or spending any of your own funds (file with City Clerk).

Set up a bank account for your committee.

[File Form 410](#) - Statement of Organization within ten days of receiving \$480 in contributions, or earlier (file with City Clerk and Secretary of State).

Forms may be obtained in hard copy from the City Clerk or electronically from the FPPC's website (links above).

Be aware of Vista's local contribution limit

The City of Vista has a local contribution limit of \$480 ([Vista Municipal Code §2.34.030](#) and [§2.33.040](#), and [Resolution No. 2019-27](#)).

Familiarize yourself with both sections of the Vista Municipal Code.

Schedule an appointment with the City Clerk

The City Clerk will review the Candidate Filing Guide and issue nomination papers from July 13 to August 7, 2020. The filing period will be extended to August 12 if the incumbent does not turn in nomination papers to run for office.

After Candidate Nomination Period Opens

Meet with the City Clerk

Review the Candidate Filing Manual.

Receive official nomination papers and pertinent candidate information.

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Prior to Close of Nomination Period

Schedule an appointment with the City Clerk to submit required documents and filing fee(s)

Submit the following:

1. A valid nomination paper. It must contain the signatures of at least 20 registered voters who individually sign and write the street address of their residences.
2. A \$25 non-refundable filing fee.
3. A Candidate's Statement of Qualifications is optional. If you choose to submit a statement to be printed in the Registrar of Voter's Information Pamphlet, a deposit (to be determined the Registrar of Voters for individual cities closer to the 2020 election) is required at the time of filing. The statement may contain the name, age, and occupation of the candidate and a brief description (not more than 400 words) of the candidate's education and qualifications. *This cost is only an estimate provided by the Registrar of Voters and the actual cost may require additional billing or refund following the election.*
4. [FPPC Form 700](#)– Statement of Economic Interests (disclosing investments, interests in real property and income).
5. Ballot Designation Worksheet.

After the Close of Nomination Period

Record Keeping

During the course of the campaign, candidates and their campaign committee should keep all receipts for expenditures, detailed records of mass mailings, and detailed information about the source of contributions.

Campaign Disclosure Statements

Candidates will be required to file periodic (at least four) campaign disclosure statements in accordance with Vista Municipal Code and state law.

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Election Day and Days that Follow

November 3, 2020

Vote! Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Voting Results
Registrar of Voters (ROV)**

The results of all the mailed ballots received will be posted on the [ROV website](#) shortly after polls close. The ROV will continue providing periodic updates until all ballots are counted.

December 8, 2020*
*(*tentative-provided the City has received the Certified Election Results from the Registrar of Voters)*

The City Council members elected for District 2 and 3 will be sworn in and seated for terms ending December 2024.

January 8, 2021

FPPC Form 700 - Statements of Economic Interests Due for Assuming and Leaving Office.

January 31, 2021
~ All Candidates:

FPPC Form 460 – Campaign Statements due.

January 31, 2021
~ Unsuccessful Candidates

To use money remaining in the Campaign Committee Account for a future election, a candidate must file a new Candidate Intention Statement, Form 501, and amend the Statement of Organization, Form 410, to reflect the new campaign where funds will be applied. If the candidate has no remaining campaign funds and does not plan to run for a future election, a committee termination, Form 460, should be filed with the City Clerk.