

## California Election Code Sections

### Ballots

#### **9053. Measure shall be designated by ballot title.**

Each measure shall be designated on the ballot by the ballot title certified to the Secretary of State by the Attorney General.

*(Added by Stats. 1994, c. 920, §2)*

#### **RECALL ELECTIONS**

##### **11320. Format of recall election ballot.**

The following shall appear on the ballots at every recall election, except in the case of a land owner voting district, with respect to each officer sought to be recalled:

(a) The question "Shall (name of officer sought to be recalled) be recalled (removed) from the office of (title of office)?"

(b) To the right of the foregoing question, the words "Yes" and "No" on separate lines with an enclosed voting space to the right of each.

*(Added by Stats. 1994, c. 920, §2.)*

##### **11322. Form of ballot for recall elections.**

In addition to the material contained in Section 11320, the following shall appear on ballots at all recall elections, except at a land owner voting district recall election:

(a) The names of the candidates nominated to succeed the officer sought to be recalled shall appear under each recall question.

(b) Following each list of candidates, the ballot shall provide one blank line with a voting space to the right of it for the voter to write in a name not printed on the ballot.

*(Amended by Stats. 1996, c. 1143, §67.)*

#### **13002. Ballot paper watermark.**

All ballot paper and punchcards used by any jurisdiction holding an election pursuant to the laws of California, shall be tinted and water marked or over printed with a design, to be furnished by the Secretary of State, so that the water mark or over print shall be plainly discernible.

*(Added by Stats. 1994, c. 920, §2.)*

#### **13103. Contents of ballot.**

Every ballot shall contain all of the following:

(a) The title of each office, arranged to conform as nearly as practicable to the plan set forth in this chapter.

(b) The names of all qualified candidates, except that:

(1) Instead of the names of candidates for delegate to the national conventions, there shall be printed the names of the presidential candidates to whom they are pledged or the names of candidates for chairmen of party national convention delegations.

(2) Instead of the names of candidates for presidential electors, there shall be printed in pairs the names of the candidates of the respective parties for President and Vice President of the United States. These names shall appear under the title "President and Vice President."

(c) The titles and summaries of measures submitted to vote of the voters.

*(Added by Stats. 1994, c. 920, §2.)*

#### **13109 Order of offices on the ballot**

Generally:

- US President
- Statewide Offices (*Gov, Lt Gov., SOS, etc*)
- US Senate
- US Congress
- State Senate
- State Assembly
- County Central Committee
- Judicial Offices
- Schools (*including State Superintendent of Public Instruction*)
- County offices
- City Offices
- Districts

- Ballot measures (*State, then County, then City, then District*)

### **13111-13113 Ballot Rotation**

#### **13210. Form of ballot.**

(a) In the case of candidates for delegate to national convention, there shall be printed in bold face gothic type, not smaller than 12-point, across the column above the names of the persons preferred by the groups of candidates for delegates, the words, "President of the United States." The words "Vote for one group only" shall extend to the extreme right-hand margin of the column and over the voting square.

(b) In the case of candidates for President and Vice President, the words "Vote for One Party" shall appear just below the heading "President and Vice President" and shall be printed so as to appear above the voting squares for that office. The heading "President and Vice President" shall be printed in bold face 12-point gothic type, and shall be centered above the names of the candidates.

(c) In that section of the ballot designated for judicial offices, next to the heading "judicial" shall appear the instruction: "Vote yes or no for each office."

(d) In the case of candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court and court of appeal, within the rectangle provided for each candidate, and immediately above each candidate's name, there shall appear the following: "For (designation of judicial office)." There shall be as many of these headings as there are candidates for these judicial offices. No heading shall apply to more than one judicial office. Underneath each heading shall appear the words "Shall (title and name of Justice) be elected to the office for the term provided by law?"

(e) In the case of all other candidates, each group of candidates to be voted on shall be preceded by the designation of the office for which they are running, and the words "vote for one" or "vote for no more than two," or more, according to the number to be nominated or elected. The designation of the office shall be printed flush with the left-hand margin in bold faced gothic type not smaller than 8-point. The words, "vote for \_\_\_\_" shall extend to the extreme right-hand margin of the column and over the voting square. The designation of the office and the directions for voting shall be separated from the candidates by a light line. There shall be no line between the headings for federal or legislative offices and the designation of the office and the directions for voting.

*(Amended by Stats. 1996, c. 218, §2.)*

#### **13264. Color of ballot stock.**

If more than one ballot card is used at an election, different tints of cardboard stock or other suitable means may be used for each series of ballot cards to facilitate the sorting of ballots.

*(Added by Stats. 1994, c. 920, §2.)*

#### **15154. Rejected ballots.**

(a) Any ballot that is not marked as provided by law or that is marked or signed by the voter so that it can be identified by others shall be rejected. The rejected ballots shall be placed in the package marked for voted ballots or in a separate container as directed by the elections official. All rejected ballots shall have written thereon the cause for rejection and be signed by a majority of processing board members who are assigned by the elections official to process ballots.

(b) The following ballot conditions shall not render a ballot invalid:

(1) Soiled or defaced.

(2) Two or more impressions of the voting stamp or mark in one voting square.

(c) If a voter indicates, either by a combination of both marking and writing in, a choice of more names than there are candidates to be elected or nominated for any office, or if for any reason the choice of the voter is impossible to determine, the vote for that office shall not be counted, but the remainder of the ballot, if properly marked, shall be counted.

(d) This section applies to all ballots counted pursuant to this chapter and Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 15300).

*(Added by Stats. 1998, c. 1073, §27.)*

#### **15208. Preparation of ballots for counting.**

Each container of ballots shall be opened and its contents removed. The ballots shall be checked to ascertain if the ballots are properly grouped and shall be arranged, if necessary, so that all similar ballots from the precinct are together.

Any ballot that is torn, bent, or mutilated shall be segregated in the manner directed by the elections official and a duplicate shall be prepared as provided in Section 15210. Any ballot that is marked in a manner so as to identify the voter shall be marked "Void" and shall be placed in the container for void ballots.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, c. 1073, §27.)*

#### **15209. Storage of ballot tabulation program.**

Any magnetic or electronic storage medium used for the ballot tabulation program and any magnetic or electronic storage medium containing election results shall be kept in a secure location and shall be retained for six months following any local election and 22 months following any federal election or so long there after as any contest involving the vote at the local or federal election remains undetermined.

*(Added by Stats. 1998, c. 1073, §27.)*