NOMINATION PROCESS SUMMARY

Nomination Period

The City Clerk will issue Nomination Papers to potential candidates. The official filing forms (Nomination Papers) will be stamped, signed and dated before issuance. These are the forms that must be used. They may not be duplicated nor have pages added.

Should you decide to become a candidate for City Council, the Nomination Papers and all other required forms must be filed with the City Clerk during the nomination period, which commences on Monday, July 13, 2026 and ends at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2026. It is preferable that you schedule an appointment to file your forms. All forms must be filed at the same time. It is your responsibility to ensure that all completed nomination documents are filed in the City Clerk's Office by the deadline. It is not recommended that you wait until the end of the deadline to file your documents.

Official Filing Form

The official filing form is three pages and consists of:

- Affidavit of Nominee and Oath
- Nomination Petition
- Declaration of Circulator

Additional Nomination Filing Documents

- Application/Check List for Nomination Papers
- Candidate's Personal Information Form
- Ballot Designation Worksheet
- Candidate's Statement Form
- Affidavit of Financial Worth
- Code of Fair Campaign Practices
- Statement of Economic Interests
- Campaign Disclosure Forms

Name on Ballot

There is a place on the nomination petition for candidates to designate how they would like their name to appear on the ballot. The name must be recognizable as the name under which the candidate is registered to vote, though the two need not be identical. Candidates may include a nickname in addition to their name. The law prohibits the use of a title or a degree on the same line of the ballot as the candidate's name (E.C. 13106)

Example: A candidate registered to vote as James William Smith may use variations such as: James W. Smith, Jim Smith, William "Bud" Smith or W. William Smith.

Ballot Designation

Ballot designations may be no more than three words designating the current principal profession, vocation or occupation of the candidate **OR** the principal profession, vocation, or occupation held during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the filing of nomination papers **OR** the title of an elected office to which they were elected and currently hold (this title is not limited to three words.)

Ballot designations are regulated by Elections Code Section 13107 and additional information is provided in this manual. A ballot designation worksheet that supports the use of the chosen designation must be completed and submitted with nomination papers. If a ballot sheet worksheet is not submitted, no designation will appear under the candidate's name on the ballot.

A ballot designation is not required; candidates may leave this line on the affidavit blank if they wish. However, a designation may not be added after papers have been filed.

Affidavit and Oath

In the affidavit, the candidate states that he or she will accept the office if elected, identifies the name they wish on the ballot and swears/affirms their willingness to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of California. The oath must be witnessed by an authorized official. If the candidate submits his or her own packet, the City Clerk will witness the oath. Candidates who choose to have a designated representative submit the packet on their behalf, must have the oath witnessed by a notary public. It is recommended that the candidate personally file his/her nomination papers.

Circulating the Nomination Petition

The candidate and all signers of the petition must be registered voters in the City of Moreno Valley, **residing within their District boundaries, and for the Mayor it is Citywide.** The candidate may circulate his or her own nomination petition or may delegate that responsibility to another person who is at least 18 years. **However, only one person can circulate a candidate's petition**. The circulator will sign, under penalty of perjury, that he or she personally circulated the petition and witnessed all signatures. (E.C 102, 10220, 10222)

The petition must contain a minimum of 20 valid signatures, but no more than a maximum of 30 signatures. Candidates are urged to obtain 30 signatures and to file early enough for the City to verify signatures. (E.C. 10220) A candidate may sign his or her own nomination petition. (E.C. 106)

After a candidate has completed and returned the official nomination papers and other required forms, the County Registrar of Voters Office will check the signatures to determine whether or not a sufficient number of the persons who signed the paper are registered voters within the candidate's district. Each signature must be compared with the signature on that person's original affidavit of registration on file in the county elections department. If a nomination petition is found to have an insufficient number of valid signatures, candidates may submit supplemental signatures prior to the filing deadline. (E.C. 105, 10221). A supplemental nomination petition will be provided by the City Clerk. All signatures must be obtained and filed with the City Clerk prior to the close of the nomination period on August 7, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Statement of Economic Interests - Form 700

The Political Reform Act requires state and local officials and many employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and some sources of income. In compliance with this law, all candidates, including incumbents, are required to file a Statement of Economic

Interests - Form 700 with the City Clerk at the time nomination papers are filed. Statements of Economic Interests are public records and are available for public review.

Filing Fee

In accordance with state law (Elections Code Section 10228), the City of Moreno Valley has established a $25 filing fee to defray some of the costs of processing nomination papers. This fee was established in 1986 through the adoption of Ordinance No. 80. Candidates may submit an in-lieu filing fee petition for all or part of the required filing fee. This document must contain the signature of four qualified registered voters from the district in which he or she is running for each dollar of the filing fee that is to be waived.

Candidate Statement

Submitting a Candidate Statement for publication is optional; however, the form indicating whether or not a statement is being submitted is required. A Candidate Statement may not contain more than 200 words. It may include the name, age, and occupation of the candidate and a brief description of the candidate's education and qualifications. Wording and spelling should be checked carefully before submitting, as Candidate Statements cannot be changed or corrected after submittal. The Candidate Statement must be typed.

Some points to note in preparing the Candidate Statement:

1. Candidates cannot change their statements after they have been filed.
2. Reference to political party affiliation or partisan political activity is not permitted.
3. Candidate shall not in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character or activities.
4. Making a false statement of material fact with the intent to mislead the voters is punishable by a fine of up to $1,000.
5. A candidate who makes false, slanderous or libelous statements in the Candidate Statement is not exempt from civil or criminal action.

Each candidate who wants to have his or her statement included in the voter's pamphlet is required to pay a pro-rata share of the printing cost. The Federal Voting Rights Act requires all information that is provided in the voter pamphlet be provided in Spanish to those who request a sample ballot in that language. The cost for ballot statements is determined by the County and varies based on the number of candidates, printing charges and the translation costs. Payment for the estimated amount of the candidate statement is due when filing the form. The required deposits for the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election are as follows:

- If submitting a candidate statement for inclusion in the voter pamphlet, a deposit must be paid at the time of filing in the amount as follows:

Mayor At-Large	$1,400
City Council District 2	$ 700
City Council District 4	$ 700

- If submitting a candidate statement for electronic posting only on the Riverside County Registrar Recorder's website, a deposit in the amount of $260 must be paid at the time of filing.

If, after statements are printed and mailed, the actual cost to each candidate is found to be greater than the deposit, the candidate will need to pay the additional amount. If actual costs are less than the deposit, the excess will be refunded. Candidates who can document inability to pay may request a payment plan.

Each Candidate Statement is confidential until the close of the filing period. All candidate statements will then be available for viewing. Statements may be withdrawn, but not changed by candidates until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. A request to withdraw candidate statement must be made in writing.

Statements of each candidate are printed in type of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing. Words to be printed all CAPITALIZED and/or <u>underscored</u> are to be clearly indicated. **Bold** font is not permitted. Specific regulations about content and word count are provided in this manual. They may be reformatted by the Registrar of Voters to fit the sample ballot pamphlet.

Code of Fair Campaign Practices

The Legislature has declared that every candidate for public office should be encouraged to subscribe to a Code of Fair Campaign Practices. It is the intent of the Legislature that every candidate for public office in this state will follow the basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play in order that, after vigorously contested, but fairly conducted campaigns, the citizens of this state may exercise their constitutional right to vote, free from dishonest and unethical practices which tend to prevent the full and free expression of the will of the voters.

A blank form of the Code and a copy of the law are included in the candidate packet. Completion of the form is voluntary; however, every code subscribed to by a candidate will be available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office until 30 days after the election.

Candidate Personal Information

This form is included as a courtesy for the news media and residents who have questions about candidates. If you choose to complete this optional form, it will be used to provide information over the phone and at the counter. It may also be duplicated and given to the news media. Please be sure that the information provided is factual and that you wish to share it.

Ballot Name Placement

Placement of candidates' names on the ballot will be according to the official order of letters determined by a randomized alphabet drawing which will be conducted by the Secretary of State's office on August 13, 2026.

Withdrawal of Candidacy

No candidate may withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy after 4:30 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

Write-In Candidacy

Interested individuals, who do not file within the nomination period, may file as a write-in candidate. Write in candidates must file a statement of write-in candidacy, a nomination petition and a statement of economic interests, as well as other forms, during the period of September 7, 2026 through October 20, 2026. Signatures and voter registration information on the nomination paper will be verified in the same manner as a regular nomination petition. There will, however, be no option for a candidate statement, and write-in candidates' names will **not** appear on the ballot or in the sample ballot pamphlet.