

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING CANDIDACY

Q: Is there a fee involved in filing for office?

A: No. A filing fee for municipal office is established at the discretion of the governing body. Monterey is very unusual in providing equal opportunity for all candidates to fully participate.

Q: Is your office open during the lunch hour?

A: Yes. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, and the City Clerk's Office is staffed during the lunch hour.

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 the city limits?

A: Those signatures would be disqualified and not counted. File your nomination papers early to avoid the consequences of a problem of this type. The City Clerk must certify the signatures on nomination papers. 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.

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 his/her 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 at 12:00 Noon the day following the close of the nomination period. The period closes on Friday, August 8, 2008, or, if an incumbent fails to file, Wednesday, August 13, 2008.

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A: The Candidate's Statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, during the period for filing nomination papers and until 5:00 p.m. of the next working day after the close of the nomination period.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 2008 election, the statement may be withdrawn no later than Monday, August 11, 2008, or, if an incumbent fails to file, Thursday, August 14, 2008.

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, Senior Assistant City Clerk, Assistant City Clerk or Deputy.
2. The signature of the candidate, as well as other data, is required on many documents involved in the nomination process. If, through an oversight, the nomination papers are incomplete, the problem can be easily rectified when a candidate files in person.

Q: Do the Mayor and Council Members receive monetary compensation?

A: Yes. The Mayor receives \$675 per month, and each member of the Council receives \$429 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 Tuesday of every month. There is one afternoon study session scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each 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.