

CITY OF LA MESA

RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE



Make a Difference!

Serve your community

Provided by the Office of the City Clerk
Megan Wiegelman, CMC, City Clerk



Dear Potential Candidate,

This brochure was prepared to assist La Mesa electors who are considering running for office. This guide is not all-encompassing; it merely summarizes the basic requirements to establish candidacy. Candidates, political committees and anyone interested in elective offices should not, therefore, rely solely on this guide, but should seek legal counsel or contact the City Clerk's Office for more detailed information.

There are 6 elected positions in La Mesa: Mayor, four Council Members, and City Treasurer.

All positions are elected at large.

In 2022, candidates may run for one of two Council Member seats, Mayor, or City Treasurer. In 2024, two Council Member seats will be open for election.

General municipal elections are conducted every even-numbered year and are consolidated with the state primary election. The candidate with the highest number of votes will be elected.

I trust this brochure will answer many of your preliminary questions, but please feel free to contact the City Clerk's Office (619) 667-1120 if you need any additional information.

Best wishes,

Office of the City Clerk

Declaring Candidacy

In order to become a candidate, the first step in the process is to file a Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 501 (Declaration of Candidacy) with the City Clerk. The form may be obtained in hard copy from the City Clerk or electronically from the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

A candidate must form a campaign committee within 10 days of receiving contributions totaling \$2,000.00 or more in contributions in a calendar year by filing FPPC Form 410. The form may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office or the FPPC website. The candidate must file the originally signed form with the Secretary of State and a copy with the City Clerk. The Secretary of State will then issue a campaign committee number for use on campaign literature and future campaign disclosure filings. All recipient committees that file a Form 410 must pay an annual fee of \$50.00 to the Secretary of State until the committee is terminated.

All campaign disclosure statement forms with the exception of the Form 501 and Form 410, must be filed using the City Clerk's online system, [NetFile](#), unless exempt from the requirement to file online pursuant to Government Code Section 84615(a) because the officer, candidate, or committee receives less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in contributions and makes less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in expenditures in a calendar year.

Filing Nomination Papers

All candidates wishing to be placed on the ballot are required to complete the nomination process. To obtain nomination papers schedule an appointment to meet with the City Clerk during the nomination period, which is 113 to 88 days prior to the Election. Elections Code §10220

During your meeting with the City Clerk, you will be given a Candidate Filing Guide containing useful information and regulations regarding your campaign. You will also receive the following documents to complete and file by the end of the nomination period:

- Nomination Petition
- Ballot Designation Worksheet
- Candidate's Statement of Qualifications form (filing is optional)
- Code of Fair Campaign Practices (filing is optional)
- Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests (filed online)
- Form 501, Candidate Intention Statement (if not yet filed)
- Form 410, Committee Organization Statement (if not yet filed)

Filing a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the voter information guide is optional. Candidates who choose to file a statement must bear the actual cost of printing and distribution.

The Registrar of Voters will estimate the cost and the candidates will pay the estimated cost at the time of filing nomination papers. Statements are limited to 200 words. Elections Code §13307

General Qualifications to Run for Public Office

AGE AND CITIZENSHIP

A person must be 18 years of age and a citizen of the state at the time of his or her election. Government Code §1020

RESIDENCY FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, OR CITY TREASURER

At the time nomination papers are issued, a person running for Mayor, City Council, or City Treasurer must be a resident of La Mesa. Additionally, a person must be a registered voter of the City. 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 laws of the State. Government Code §1021

FILING FOR MORE THAN ONE OFFICE

No person may file nomination papers for more than one office at the same election. California Elections Code §8003b, 10220.5

Financial and Campaign Disclosure Obligations

Candidates and office holders are required to comply with federal, state and local campaign finance laws, as well as disclose their economic interests. They must file periodic reports on a schedule established by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Failure to file appropriate statements and reports can result in substantial criminal, civil and administrative penalties. Failure to file within prescribed deadlines can also lead to monetary penalties for each day a statement is late. The appropriate forms may be obtained from either the City Clerk's Office or the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

Pursuant to La Mesa Municipal Code Chapter 105, from and after January 1, 2022, elected officers, candidates, and committees required to file statements must file such statements using the City Clerk's online system ([NetFile](#)), unless exempt from the requirement to file online pursuant to Government Code Section 84615(a) because the officer, candidate, or committee receives less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in contributions and makes less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in expenditures in a calendar year.

Please be aware that all statements and information submitted in conjunction with the statements are a matter of public record, available for review by any member of the public.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

The Political Reform Act (Title 9 of the Government Code), in part, provides that :

- Receipts and expenditures in election campaign should be fully and truthfully disclosed in order that the voters may be fully informed and improper practices may be inhibited. Government Code §81002a
- Assets and income of public officials that may be materially affected by their official actions should be disclosed, and in appropriate circumstances, the officials should be disqualified from acting in order that conflicts of interest may be avoided. Government Code §81002c

Forms and manuals may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office or the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov.

LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

La Mesa's elections are conducted in accordance with the California Elections Code. At this time, the City has not independently imposed local campaign contributions. All City candidates must report contributions and expenditures to the City Clerk, in addition to complying with disclosure requirements and filing deadlines set forth in the Political Reform Act.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Federal Election Campaign Act (2 U.S.C. Section 441e) prohibits contributions from foreign nationals in connection with any local, state or federal election for political office.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Must I live in La Mesa in order to run for elected office?

Candidates for Mayor, Council Member, or City Treasurer must be residents and registered voters of the City. Elections Code §201

- If a person owns a business in La Mesa but does not live in La Mesa, is she or he able to sign the nomination petition?

No, only persons residing and registered to vote in La Mesa may sign the petition. Government Code §34883

- Are the mayoral and council positions partisan or non-partisan?

Elections for city offices are non-partisan, meaning candidates do not have to declare a political party in order to run for office.

- How many signatures are required on the nomination petition?

A minimum of 20 and a maximum of 30. Election Code §10220

- Do I have to wait until the nomination filing deadline to turn in my nomination petition and other forms?

No, you may turn in the forms as soon as they are complete. Candidates are encouraged to make an appointment with the City Clerk to file nomination papers. Candidate statements are confidential until the conclusion of the nomination period.

- Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

The City Clerk is the Elections Official for La Mesa and will answer your questions or refer you to the appropriate person or agency. The City Clerk may be reached at (619) 667-1120.

Important Contacts

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942

Phone: (619) 667-1120

www.cityoflamesa.us

Campaign Statements for Local Committees and Candidates

Forms and Manuals

Filing Schedules

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Registrar of Voters

5600 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: (858) 565-5800 or (800) 696-0136

www.sdvote.com

Mail Ballots

Voter Index/Precinct Lists

Mailing Labels

Voter Registration

SECRETARY OF STATE

Political Reform Division

1500 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 495, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 653-6224

www.sos.ca.gov

Committee Identification Numbers

Formation and Termination of Committees

FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

1102 Q Street, Suite 3000, Sacramento, CA 95811

Phone: (866) 275-3772 (Toll Free)

www.fppc.ca.gov

Campaign Disclosure

Conflict of Interest Disclosure



CITY OF
LA MESA
JEWEL of the HILLS