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## PLACER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

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### CANDIDATE SERVICES

# Information for Ballot Arguments for Measures Appearing in the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

The California Elections Code governs the preparation and submittal of ballot arguments and rebuttal arguments in favor of or against ballot measures. The Placer County Office of Elections has prepared this guide to help answer questions regarding the ballot argument preparation and submittal process. If you have questions not answered by the information below, please contact the Placer County Office of Elections.

Any references to "E.C." refer to the California Elections Code.

#### **BALLOT ARGUMENTS:**

The Board of Supervisors or any member of the Board authorized by the Board, or any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of such voters and associations may file a written argument for or against any county measure. No argument shall exceed 300 words in length. (E.C. 9162)

**Title:** The arguments shall be titled either "Argument in Favor of Measure \_\_\_\_\_" or "Argument against Measure \_\_\_\_\_," accordingly, the blank spaces filled in only with the letter or number, if any, which designates the measure. (E.C. 9162)

**Number of Words:** Arguments cannot exceed 300 words in length. Attached is Elections Code Section 9 to help you determine the number of words in the text of any argument. (E.C. 9162)

**Signatures:** A ballot argument *shall not be accepted* unless accompanied by the name or names of the person or persons submitting it, or, if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization and the name of at least one of its principal officers.

No more than five signatures shall appear with any argument submitted. In case more than five persons sign any argument, the signatures of the first five shall be printed. (E.C. 9164)

**Argument Not Accepted Without Consent From Person Included In Text:** An argument that includes in its text the name or title of a person, other than the author of the argument, who is represented as being for or against a measure, shall not be accepted unless the argument is accompanied by the signed consent of that person. The consent of a person, other than an individual, shall be signed by an officer or other duly authorized representative. "Person" as used in this section means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, committee, labor organization, and any other organization or group of persons.

**More Than One Argument:** If more than one argument for or against any county measure is submitted, the county elections official shall give preference and priority in the following order. (E.C. 9166)

1. The Board of Supervisors, or member(s) of the Board authorized by the Board.
2. The individual voter, bona fide association of citizens or combination of voters and associations, who are the bona fide sponsors or proponents of the measure.
3. Bona fide associations of citizens.
4. Individual voters who are eligible to vote on the measure.

**Author Information:** In order to transmit opposing arguments and to make a determination of which argument to print if more than one argument is submitted, the Office of Elections needs to have certain information for the author. If someone other than the author delivers the argument, the author should supply the following information so it can be given to the Office of Elections:

- Residence address
- Mailing address
- Daytime telephone number
- E-mail address

If the Office of Elections does not receive this information, it may delay delivery of the opposing argument.

**DEADLINE FOR FILING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR AND AGAINST MEASURE:**

**December 8, 2023 (By 5:00 p.m.)**

## **REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS:**

When the county elections official has selected the arguments for and against the measure, which will be printed and distributed to the voters, the clerk shall send copies of the argument in favor of the measure to the authors of the argument against, and copies of the argument against to the authors of the argument in favor. (E.C. 9167)

Rebuttal arguments written by an individual other than the author of the primary argument will need to be accompanied by written authorization from the author of the primary argument. (E.C. 9167)

**Title:** Rebuttal arguments shall be titled either “Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure \_\_\_\_\_” or “Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure \_\_\_\_\_”. (E.C. 9167)

**Number of Words:** Rebuttal arguments are limited to 250 words. (E.C. 9167)

**Signatures:** See “Signatures” paragraph in previous section.

### **Argument Not Accepted Without Consent From Person Included In Text:**

See “Argument Not Accepted Without Consent From Person Included in Text” paragraph in previous section.

**More Than One Rebuttal Argument:** See “More Than One Argument” paragraph in previous section.

## **DEADLINE FOR FILING REBUTTALS TO ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF OR AGAINST MEASURE:**

**December 18, 2023 (By 5:00 p.m.)**

## **WORD COUNT GUIDELINES**

(E.C. 9)

Counting of words, for purposes of this code, shall be as follows:

1. Punctuation is not counted.
2. Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section.
3. All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City and County of San Francisco" shall be counted as one word.
4. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.
5. Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word.
6. Dates shall be counted as one word.
7. Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number which is spelled, such as "one," shall be considered as a separate word or words. "One" shall be counted as one word whereas "one hundred" shall be counted as two words. "100" shall be counted as one word.
8. Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
9. Internet and website addresses shall be counted as one word.

**BALLOT ARGUMENT STATEMENT FORM**  
Election Code Section 9600

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to California Elections Code Division 9, commencing with Section 9000, shall be accompanied by the following form statement, to be signed by each proponent and by each author, if different, of the argument:

The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(primary/rebuttal to)  
argument \_\_\_\_\_ ballot proposition \_\_\_\_\_  
(in favor of/against) (name or number)  
at the \_\_\_\_\_  
(title of election)  
for the \_\_\_\_\_  
(jurisdiction)  
to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ hereby state that such argument is  
(date of election)  
true and correct to the best of \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge and belief.  
(his/her/their)

**PROPONENT INFORMATION** (The signatures will be printed in order on the sample ballot)

1. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_
2. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_
3. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_
4. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_
5. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR INFORMATION**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# AUTHORIZATION FORM

(For Rebuttal Arguments Only)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as the author on the primary argument in favor \_\_\_\_\_ or argument against \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby authorize the following person to sign in my place on the rebuttal to the argument in favor \_\_\_\_\_ or rebuttal to the argument against \_\_\_\_\_.

The following must be completed with the information on the new author:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

The following must be completed with the information on the original author:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Original Author)

# Statement of Responsibility for Political Signs

The placement of political signs in county territory is subject to regulations established by the Placer County Code Chapter 17 Zoning, Section 17.54.190 (B). It requires that: No signs shall be posted earlier than 60 days prior to the election to which they pertain and shall be removed no later than 21 days after the election. No signs shall be posted in any county roadway rights-of-way. To guarantee removal, a refundable deposit of \$200.00 will be paid to the Placer County Clerk before any signs are posted.

Candidate's/Proponent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought or Measure Letter: \_\_\_\_\_

Election Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt No: \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned accepts responsibility for removal of any signs posted in reference to the above candidate (or proposition) as stated above and in accordance with Placer County Code Chapter 17 Zoning, Section 17.54.190 (B). If all signs are not removed by 21 days after the election to which they pertain, violations are punishable under the provisions in Article 17.62 (enforcement). The punishment is a fine not to exceed \$500.00 per violation, with each day constituting a separate violation, or not more than six months in jail and forfeit of the sign deposit.

**The Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Office will begin processing all refunds the 22<sup>nd</sup> day after the election if there are no outstanding complaints.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Make Refund Payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Refund to: \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only	
CS Deposit Date: _____	CS Number: _____
Coding: CC07001, PG070002, RC8385, GL20370, PJ _____	
Refund Amount: \$200	
Refund Date: _____	Transaction Ref#: _____
Coding: CC07001, PG070002, SC8370, GL20370, PJ _____	