

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Municipal Elections Code - Deadline for Filing Declaration of Candidacy]

Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require that candidates for local elective office file their declaration of candidacy on the same date as they file their declaration of intention to accept or solicit campaign contributions.

Existing Law

At the July 2018 election, San Francisco voters adopted Proposition B, a Charter amendment providing that any member of a board, commission, or other body established by the Charter other than a citizens' advisory committee, must immediately forfeit his or her seat on the board, commission, or body upon filing a declaration of candidacy for any State or local elective office.

Under Section 205 of the Municipal Elections Code, candidates for Mayor and the Board of Supervisors must file "nomination papers" no later than the 147th day before a municipal election and no earlier than the 172nd day. Candidates for all other City elective offices must file their "nomination papers" no later than the 88th day before the election. "Nomination papers" include a declaration of candidacy, in which the candidate must attest that he or she satisfies the statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office.

The City's campaign finance law provides that before a candidate for local elective office solicits or accepts campaign contributions, that candidate must file a declaration of intent with the Department of Elections.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would require candidates for local elective office to file their declaration of candidacy on the same date as they file their declaration of intention to accept or solicit campaign contributions.

This ordinance provides that if a member of a board, commission, or other body established by this Charter, other than a citizen advisory committee, has, at the time of the effective date of this ordinance, already filed a declaration of intent to become a candidate for any City elective office, that member shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this ordinance file a declaration of candidacy. Failure to file a declaration of candidacy at that time would preclude the member from appearing on the ballot as a candidate for the City elective office referenced in the declaration of intent.