



City of San Diego City Clerk Administrative Guidelines

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CITY CLERK'S ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

SECTION 1 – Elections

100. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedures, specifications, and clarification regarding election matters that cut across all election types and procedures.

(1) “Cancellation of an Election”, per San Diego Municipal Code §27.2727 and §27.3011 though technically possible if enacted prior to the statutory deadline of eighty-eight days prior to an election, may result in the election still going forward but the ballots may not be tabulated or certified, and the City of San Diego may still be partially or wholly financially responsible for the election, depending on how close to the statutory deadline the election is cancelled by the Legislative Body. There are many logistical factors that start well before the legally required date to submit materials to the Registrar of Voters.

101. WORD COUNT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines for computing word count are applicable for all Election related matters (i.e. Statement of Qualifications, Ballot Arguments, Fiscal Impact Analysis, Ballot and Title Summary, Impartial Analysis):

a. *All words are counted, including candidate's name.*

b. *Punctuation - 'free'*

c. *Dictionary words - 1 word*

d. *Place names - 1 word*

Examples: San Diego; City of San Diego; Cardiff by the Sea; District 8

e. *Abbreviations and Acronyms - 1 word*

Examples: NAACP; U.C.L.A.; PTA; PhD

f. *Whole numbers - digits (“1” or “10” or “100,” etc.) - 1 word*

g. *Spelled-Out Numbers = 1 word for each word*

Examples: One – 1 word

One Hundred – 2 words

One Hundred Thousand – 3 words

h. *Numeric combinations (“1973,” “13-1/2,” “1991-1993,” “5%”) - 1 word*

- i. Dates - all digits ("4/10/64") - 1 word
- j. Dates - words and digits ("April 10, 1964") - 2 words
- k. Monetary amounts (if the dollar sign is used - "\$1,000,000," \$1.50") - 1 word
- l. Telephone numbers [(619) 555-1212; 619/533-4000] = 1 word
- m. Internet Website Addresses (www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk) = 1 word
- n. Hyphenated words that appear in the reference dictionary as one-word count as one word. If not, each part of the hyphenated word shall count as a separate word.
Examples: full-time= 1 word ; close-call= 2 words (not in dictionary)
- o. Names do not count as 1 word
Example: Mary Smith= 2 words ;

Note exception for hyphenated last names or last names that appear to be two words:

Example: Mary Smith-Jones= 2 word; John Von Hausen= 2 words

SECTION 2 – Nomination Papers

200. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedures and specifications of nomination papers pursuant to SDMC 27.0202 including the nomination petition, the candidate's designation of principal profession, vocation or occupation; statement of qualifications; and photograph.
- (b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of these guidelines.
- (c) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to Nomination Petitions and Papers being circulated and submitted to the Clerk for elective offices in the City of San Diego.
- (d) Whenever the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

201. NOMINATION PETITION

The petition shall consist of sheets of white paper uniform in size with dimensions of 8–1/2 by 11 inches in size. Each nominating petition shall contain the following:

- (a) a statement which includes the name of the candidate, the office for which they seek nomination, and the date of the pertinent District or City-wide Primary Election.
- (b) Space for signing voters' information

(c) A circulator's affidavit of authenticity

202. FORM OF NOMINATING PETITION

- (a) On the right-hand side of each *voter* signature sheet, a space at least one inch wide shall be left blank for the City *Clerk's* use in verifying the validity or invalidity of the signatures. *Voter* signature sheets shall be arranged and lined to provide space for each *voter's* signature, each *voter's* printed name, place of each *voter's* residence, and date of each *voter's* signature.
- (b) The following statement shall appear at the top of each nominating petition page and be in substantially the following form:

NOMINATING PETITION AND SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO)ss.

We, the undersigned voters of _____ (The City of San Diego, or City Council District, including district designation) hereby nominate _____ for the office of _____ to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held _____.

The following note shall appear on each nominating petition page, immediately below the statement required above:

(NOTE: Nominating petitions for Mayor and City Attorney may be signed at large throughout the City and must contain the signatures of at least 240 qualified voters. Nominating petitions for members of the Board of Education may be signed only by voters residing within the home district of the candidate and must contain the signatures of at least 200 qualified voters. Nominating petitions for members of the City Council may be signed only by voters residing within the home district of the candidate and must contain the signatures of at least 120 qualified voters. Nominating petitions for appointment to City elective offices require the signatures of at least 50 qualified voters. It is unlawful for any voter to sign more than one nominating petition for any given office.)

(c) The signature portion of the sheet shall be in substantially the following form:

Name	Residence (No P.O. Boxes)	Date	(Clerk's Use Only)
1. Print _____ Sign _____			
2. Print _____ Sign _____			
3. Print _____ Sign _____			
4. Print _____ Sign _____			

**203. FORM OF AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY FOR NOMINATION PETITION
SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE 27.0208**

(a) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity shall have the form as specified in San Diego Municipal Code Section 27.0208(f).

(b) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity must be signed by the circulator in order for the signatures on that petition section to be considered valid.

**SUB-SECTION 2.1 – DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL PROFESSION,
VOCATION OR OCCUPATION**

200.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the accurate designation of a candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation, which will appear on the ballot.

(b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) §27.0604 and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of these guidelines.

(c) Candidates are not required to use a ballot designation pursuant to SDMC §27.0604 and may opt to leave the space for such a designation on the ballot blank. However, candidates must file a designation of principal profession, vocation or occupation form provided by the City Clerk at the same time that all other nomination papers are submitted for filing. On this form, the candidate will either note the proposed ballot designation being submitted or indicate that they do not wish to submit one. .

(d) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0604, a candidate may submit a proposed ballot designation pursuant to any one of the four provisions specified in SDMC §27.0604(c)(1) through §27.0604(c)(4), applicable to that candidate. The candidate shall be free to select from which of the applicable four subparts they are submitting their proposed ballot designation.

(e) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to elections held for elective offices in the City of San Diego.

(f) Whenever the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

201.1. PROPOSED BALLOT DESIGNATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE §27.0604(C)(1)

Proposed ballot designations shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. Accordingly, the candidate may designate multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations. If a candidate proposes a ballot designation including multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations, the proposed ballot designation must comply with the following provisions:

(1) The proposed ballot designation must comply with the four-word limitation specified in SDMC §27.0604(b), and as implemented pursuant to subdivision (g) herein.

(2) Each such proposed profession, vocation or occupation shall be separately considered by the City Clerk and must independently qualify as a "principal" profession, vocation or occupation, as that term is defined pursuant to subdivision (b) herein.

(3) When multiple professions, vocations or occupations are proposed as a ballot designation, they shall be separated by a slash ("/"). The slash shall be used to separate different professions, vocations, or occupations not to modify or further explain an occupation. An example of an acceptable designation would be "Legislator/Rancher/Physician."

(b) The terms "profession," "vocation," or "occupation," as those terms are used in SDMC §27.0604(c)(1), are defined as follows:

(1) "Profession" means a field of employment requiring special education or skill and requiring specific knowledge of a particular discipline of learning or science. The labor and skill involved in a profession is predominantly mental or intellectual, rather than physical or manual. Recognized professions generally include, but are not limited to, law, medicine, education, engineering, accountancy, and journalism. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "profession," as used in SDMC §27.0604(a), include, but are not limited to, "attorney," "physician," "accountant," "architect," and "teacher."

(2) "Vocation" means a trade, a religious calling, or the work upon which a person, in most but not all cases, relies for their livelihood and spends a major portion of their time. As defined, vocations may include, but are not limited to, religious ministry, child rearing, homemaking, elderly and dependent care, and engaging in trades such as carpentry, cabinetmaking, plumbing, and the like. Examples of an acceptable designation of a "vocation," as used in SDMC §27.0604(a), include, but are not limited to, "minister," "priest,"

“mother,” father,” “homemaker,” “dependent care provider,” “carpenter,” “plumber,” “electrician,” and “cabinetmaker.”

(3) "Occupation" means the employment in which one regularly engages or follows as the means of making a livelihood. Examples of an acceptable designation of an “occupation,” as used in SDMC §27.0604(a), include, but are not limited to, “rancher,” “restaurateur,” “retail salesperson,” “manual laborer,” “construction worker,” “computer manufacturing executive,” “military pilot,” “secretary,” and “police officer.”

(c) "Principal," as that term is used in SDMC §27.0604(c)(1), means a substantial involvement of time and effort such that the activity is one of the primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavors of the candidate. The term "principal" precludes any activity which does not entail a significant involvement on the part of the candidate. Involvement which is only nominal, pro forma, or titular in character does not meet the requirements of the statute.

(1) If a candidate is licensed by the State of California to engage in a profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate is entitled to consider it one of their “principal” professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate has maintained their license current as of the date they filed their nomination documents by complying with all applicable requirements of the respective licensure, including the payment of all applicable license fees, and (ii) the status of the candidate's license is active at the time they filed their nomination papers.

(2) A candidate who holds a professional, vocational or occupational license issued by the State of California may not claim such profession, vocation or occupation as one of their "principal" professions, vocations or occupations if (i) the candidate's licensure status is "inactive" at the time the candidate files their nomination papers, or (ii) the candidate's license has been suspended or revoked by the agency issuing the license at the time the candidate files their nomination papers.

(d) State election law provides for a designation of “community volunteer” as a valid principal vocation or occupation. In accordance with Municipal Code Section 27.0106, which provides that the City Clerk may rely on state election law for guidance, a ballot designation of “Community Volunteer” shall constitute a valid principal vocation or occupation for purposes of Municipal Code Section 27.0604, if not otherwise in violation of any of the restrictions set forth in that section. “Community Volunteer” means a person who engages in an activity or performs a service for or on behalf of, without profiting monetarily, one or more of the following:

(1) A charitable, educational, or religious organization as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3);

(2) A governmental agency; or

(3) An educational institution.

The activity or service must constitute substantial involvement of the candidate's time and effort such that the activity or service is the sole, primary, main or leading professional, vocational or occupational endeavor of the candidate. When a candidate uses the designation of “community volunteer,” it shall be the only designation that appears next to a candidate's name.

(e) In order for a ballot designation submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(1) to be deemed acceptable by the City Clerk, it must accurately state the candidate's principal professions, vocations or occupations, as those terms are defined in subdivisions (b) and (c) herein. Each proposed principal profession, vocation or occupation submitted by the candidate must be factually accurate, descriptive of the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation, must be neither confusing nor misleading, and must be in full and complete compliance with SDMC §27.0604 and the guidelines included here.

(f) If the candidate is engaged in a profession, vocation or occupation at the time they file their nomination papers, the candidate's proposed ballot designation is entitled to consist of the candidate's current principal professions, vocations and occupations. In the event the candidate does not have a current principal profession, vocation or occupation at the time they file their nomination papers, the candidate may use a ballot designation consisting of their principal professions, vocations or occupations, which the candidate was principally engaged in during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of the candidate's nomination papers.

(g) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(b), the candidate's ballot designation shall be limited to not more than four words. The following rules shall govern the application of the four-word limitation:

(1) The proposed ballot designation shall be grammatically correct, generic, and all words must be spelled correctly.

(2) Punctuation shall be limited to the use of a comma (e.g., Mayor, City of San Diego) and a slash (e.g., Legislator/Rancher/Physician), pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section. A hyphen (-) may be used if, and only if, the use of a hyphen is called for in the spelling of a word as it appears in a standard reference dictionary of the English language, which was published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted.

(3) An acronym shall be counted as one word.

(4) A candidate may engage in multiple principal professions, vocations or occupations, as described in Section 201(a)(1) – 201.1(a)(3).

202.1. PROPOSED BALLOT DESIGNATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE §27.0604(C)(2)

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(2) shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) In the case of candidates holding elective city, county, district, state, or federal office, the candidate's ballot designation may be the elective office which the candidate holds at the time of filing their nomination papers.

(b) In the case of judicial officers, the candidate's ballot designation may be the office which the candidate holds at the time of filing their nomination papers.

(c) There shall be no word count limitation applicable to ballot designations submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(2).

(d) Proposed ballot designations indicating a position of legislative leadership, such as “Deputy Mayor,” “Majority Leader, California Senate,” “Minority Leader, State Assembly,” “Speaker, California State Assembly,” “President Pro Tempore, Senate,” and the like, are not elective offices described in SDMC §27.0604(c)(2). Such ballot designations are improper, pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(2). They may, however, be considered under the provisions of SDMC §27.0604(c)(1).

(e) Proposed ballot designations indicating that the candidate is a member of the state or county central committee of a political party, or an officer of a state or county central committee of a political party, are improper, as such positions do not constitute elective state or county offices as specified in SDMC §27.0604(c)(2).

(f) A candidate who chooses to include the name of their elective office with another profession, vocation, or occupation may do so pursuant to Elections Code section 13107(a)(3), but that ballot designation shall be limited to no more than four words.

203.1. PROPOSED BALLOT DESIGNATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE §27.0604(C)(3)

Proposed ballot designations submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(3) shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) A proposed ballot designation submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(3) is limited to the word “incumbent,” as that term is used in SDMC §27.0604(c)(3).

(b) The term "incumbent" must be used as a noun. It shall not be used in conjunction with any other words, including any accompanying adjectives or modifiers, and must stand alone. A candidate qualified to use this designation pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(3) shall be entitled to use the ballot designation "Incumbent."

(c) The word "incumbent" is strictly limited for use in ballot designations submitted pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(3), and may not be used as an adjective in any other ballot designation.

204.1. PROPOSED BALLOT DESIGNATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE §27.0604(C)(4)

(a) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(4), a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the phrase "appointed incumbent" if the candidate holds the office of Mayor or City Attorney, by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office. The candidate may not use the unmodified word "incumbent" or any words designating the office unmodified by the word “appointed.”

(b) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(c)(4), a candidate may propose a ballot designation consisting of the word "appointed" in conjunction with the elective office, if the candidate is a candidate for election to the same office or to some other office. The candidate may not use any words designating the office unmodified by the word "appointed.”

205.1. UNACCEPTABLE BALLOT DESIGNATIONS

(a) The City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which fails to comply with or is otherwise inappropriate pursuant to SDMC §27.0604, is prohibited pursuant to SDMC §27.0605, is misleading, or is otherwise improper pursuant to the guidelines set forth here.

(b) The following types of activities are distinguished from professions, vocations and occupations and are not acceptable as ballot designations pursuant to SDMC §27.0604(b):

(1) *Avocations*: An avocation is a casual or occasional activity, diversion or hobby pursued principally for enjoyment and in addition to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation. Avocations may include, but are not limited to, hobbies, social activities, volunteer work (except for the designation of "Community Volunteer" as discussed above), and matters pursued as an amateur.

(2) *Pro Forma Professions, Vocations and Occupations*: Pro forma professions, vocations or occupations are positions held by the candidate which consume little or none of the candidate's time and which, by their nature, are voluntary or for which the candidate is not compensated.

Pro forma professions, vocations and occupations may include, but are not limited to, such pursuits as honorary peace officer, volunteer firefighter, honorary chairperson, honorary professor, goodwill ambassador, official host or hostess, and the like.

(3) *Statuses*: A status is a state, condition, social position or legal relation of the candidate to another person, persons or the community as a whole. A status is generic in nature and generally fails to identify with any particular specificity the manner by which the candidate earns their livelihood or spends the substantial majority of their time. Examples of a status include, but are not limited to, veteran, proponent, reformer, scholar, founder, philosopher, philanthropist, activist, patriot, taxpayer, concerned citizen, husband, wife, and the like.

(c) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(a), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would mislead voters. In making this determination, the City Clerk shall determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonably prudent voter would be misled as to the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation by the candidate's proposed ballot designation. The determination shall take into account the plain meaning of the words constituting the proposed ballot designation and the factual accuracy of the proposed ballot designation based on supporting documents or other evidence submitted by the candidate in support of the proposed ballot designation upon request of the City Clerk.

(d) A ballot designation may not comprise or include commercial identification information, such as a trademark, service mark, trade name, or the specific name of a business, partnership, corporation, company, foundation, or organization. Examples of an improper use of commercial identification information include, but are not limited to, "Acme Company President," "Universal Widgets Inventor," "Director, Smith Foundation," "UCLA Professor," and the like.

(e) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(b), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which would suggest an evaluation of the candidate's qualifications, honesty, integrity, leadership abilities or character. Any laudatory or derogatory adjectives which would suggest an

evaluation of the candidate's qualifications shall not be permitted. Such impermissible adjectives include but are not limited to, "senior," "emeritus," "specialist," "magnate," "outstanding," "leading," "expert," "virtuous," "eminent," "best," "exalted," "prominent," "famous," "respected," "honored," "honest," "dishonest," "corrupt," "lazy," and the like.

(f) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(c), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which abbreviates the word "retired" or places it following any word or words which it modifies. Examples of impermissible designations include Ret. Businesswoman, Firefighter, Retired, or "City Attorney, Retired."

Subject to the provisions of SDMC §27.0605(c), use of the word "retired" in a ballot designation is generally limited for use by individuals who have permanently given up their chosen principal profession, vocation or occupation. In evaluating a proposed ballot designation including the word "retired," the City Clerk will consider the following factors in making a determination as to the propriety of the use of the term "retired":

- (1) Prior to retiring from their principal profession, vocation or occupation, the candidate worked in such profession, vocation or occupation for more than 5 years;
- (2) The candidate is collecting, or eligible to collect, retirement benefits or other type of vested pension;
- (3) The candidate has reached at least the age of 55 years;
- (4) The candidate voluntarily left their last professional, vocational or occupational position;
- (5) If the candidate is requesting a ballot designation indicating that they are a retired public official, the candidate must have previously voluntarily retired from public office, not have been involuntarily removed from office, not have been recalled by voters, and not have surrendered the office to seek another office or failed to win reelection to the office. If such a candidate did not voluntarily retire from public office, they may not use the word "retired" in their ballot designation;
- (6) The candidate has not had another more recent, intervening principal profession, vocation or occupation; and,
- (7) The candidate's retirement benefits are providing them with a principal source of income.

(g) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(d), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or prefix to indicate a prior profession, vocation, occupation, or elected or appointed or judicial office previously held by the candidate. Such impermissible words or prefixes include, but are not limited to, "ex-," "former," "past," and "erstwhile." Examples of impermissible designations include "Former Councilmember," "Ex-Mayor," and "Former Educator."

(h) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(e), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses the name of any political party.

(i) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(f), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which uses a word or words referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.

(1) The City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any ballot designation which implies or expressly contains any ethnic or racial slurs or ethnically or racially derogatory language.

(2) If the candidate is a member of the clergy, the candidate may not make reference to their specific denomination. However, the candidate may use their clerical title as a ballot designation (e.g., "Rabbi," "Pastor," "Minister," "Priest," "Bishop," "Deacon," "Monk," "Nun," "Imam," etc.)

(j) Pursuant to SDMC §27.0605(g), the City Clerk shall reject as unacceptable any proposed ballot designation which refers to any activity prohibited by law. Unlawful activity includes any activities, conduct, professions, vocations, or occupations prohibited by state or federal law.

206.1. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The City Clerk may request that a candidate submit supporting documentation or other evidence to support the proposed ballot designation.

(a) Time is of the essence regarding all matters pertaining to the review of proposed ballot designations submitted by candidates for public office. Failure to promptly submit requested supporting materials will preclude consideration of such materials in the final decision on the candidate's proposed ballot designation.

(b) The City Clerk will communicate, whenever possible, with the candidate in the most expeditious manner, including, but not limited to, telephone and electronic mail at the number or address provided by the candidate.

When the candidate does not have reasonable access to electronic mail, the City Clerk will transmit written communication to the candidate by means of overnight express delivery to the address provided by the candidate.

(c) The candidate shall have the burden of establishing that the proposed ballot designation that they have submitted is accurate and complies with all provisions of SDMC §27.0604 and these guidelines.

207.1. SERVICE OF LEGAL PROCESS REGARDING BALLOT DESIGNATIONS

(a) In the event a candidate or other interested party files a petition for the issuance of an extraordinary writ with the court or other legal action pertaining to a candidate's ballot designation, the summons and any other legal process shall be served upon the City Clerk of the City of San Diego, 202 "C" Street, Lobby, San Diego, California 92101.

(b) Telephone notice pertaining to any ex parte applications filed with the court by any candidate or other interested party will be directed to the attention of the San Diego City Attorney at (619) 236-6220.

SUB-SECTION 2.2 - STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

200.2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the candidate with instructions on what is included as part of the candidate's statement of qualifications.
- (b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) §27.0620 - 27.0621 and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose.
- (c) Candidates are not required to submit a Statement of Qualifications pursuant to SDMC §27.0620. If a candidate opts not to submit a candidate statement for printing in the sample ballot, the candidate must file the form provided by the City Clerk stating that there will be no candidate statement at the same time that all other nomination papers are submitted for filing.
- (d) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to elections held for elective offices in the City of San Diego.
- (e) Whenever the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

201.2. STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE'S QUALIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE §27.0620

- (a) The *candidate's* statement of qualifications constitutes *ballot materials* within the meaning of Section 27.0103.
- (b) *Candidates for elective office* may prepare a statement of qualifications on a form provided by the *City Clerk*. Such statements may include the name, age, occupation and education of the *candidate* and a brief description of the *candidate's* qualifications expressed by the *candidate* and are limited to matters concerning only the *candidate*.
- (c) Candidates are required to TYPE their statement SINGLE SPACED in JUSTIFIED BLOCK PARAGRAPHS. Candidates are required to submit their statement via email on the day the candidate is to arrive to file their nomination papers.

The City Clerk will print out the document for the candidate/or the candidate's representative to review and sign when all nomination papers are filed. Please note the statement is CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL THE FILING DEADLINE of E-88 from the election date, at which point they are submitted for publishing to the Registrar of Voters.

The following formatted statements WILL NOT be permitted:

1. Handwritten statement
2. Copy from a fax machine
3. Hard copy electronic submission

STATEMENTS WILL BE PRINTED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED; candidates are therefore advised to carefully check their statements for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. The elections official is authorized to make corrections only to the format of the statement in order to meet printing standards for the Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet, and guidelines as established within the San Diego Municipal Code and City Clerk Administrative Guidelines.

The guidelines intend uniformity of appearance of the candidate statements. By preparing a candidate statement in accordance with the guidelines, each statement will be uniformly printed and allowed the same amount of space in the Voter Information Pamphlet. This maintains a neutral composition or printing for all candidates.

The statement will be printed in 8-point type in the Voter Information Pamphlet. Only the candidate's name, age and occupation will be printed in 10-point type all caps and will only be printed if included in the candidate's statement of qualifications.

(d) Limited use of characters and symbols, see specific allowable use of characters and symbols.

Example:

Standard circular bullet point for itemized lists. (·)

The use of the dollar sign when referencing currency (\$)

The use of the @ when referencing an email or other electronic addresses.

The use of the ampersand character when referencing a name of a business which has the character in the name (&) or replacing the word "and." The use of the ampersand in this way would still add to the total word count for the 200 word candidate statement.

(e) The use of tables, special formatting as described below, and all other characters and symbols are not allowed:

Example:

Tables

Extra exclamation points (!!!)

Multiple punctuation (!?!?)

Asterisk (*)

Non-standard Bullets (☐☐☐)

Graphics (☐, ☐, ☐)

Italics

Underlines

Bold

ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

(f) The statement may include the name of any other individual, organization, or quotations from individuals or organizations. A quote from an individual or use of an individual's name included in the statement must be authorized in writing by the individual. A quote or endorsement from an organization included in the statement must be authorized in writing by the organization. The consent of an organization shall be signed by an officer or other duly authorized representative of the organization. If a quotation is from a publication, a copy of the publication may be provided instead of a letter. Such authorization must be filed at the same time as the statement of qualifications, or the quotation will not be permitted in the statement. An organizational reference used as part of the candidate's biographical information is permitted without authorization from the organization.

Authorization Letter requests: If anyone other than the candidate filing the Statement Of Qualifications or their family members are mentioned in the statement, by quote or reference, a written authorization (original signature required) for the individual's name to be used must be filed at the time the Statement Of Qualifications is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Past Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- A candidate referenced a Senate Bill by the name of the Author (current senator). The candidate needed to have a letter of authorization from the Senator in order to have the Senator's name remain in the Statement of Qualifications.
- A candidate listed being appointed to a board by a County Supervisor (listing the Supervisor by name). The candidate was required to include an authorization letter from the supervisor.
- A candidate listed being appointed by a legislative body to a board, authorization letter **was not required** because it was a matter of public record and no individual was listed.
- A candidate referenced the name of a family (not his own) based on work done to author a Senate bill in memory of the individual. The candidate at first wanted to use a newspaper article to support the use of the name. The article did not reference the support of the candidate in the family's name, the candidate was given a choice to change the Statement of Qualifications to reflect what the newspaper article stated or get an authorization letter from the family.
- A press release from the candidate's office including a quote from a third-party is insufficient to support use of the quote in a Statement of Qualifications. An actual publication is required, or letter of authorization is required.

(g) The statement may include the names of family members.

202.2. CERTAIN CONTENT PROHIBITED IN STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

A proposed statement of qualifications shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The statement of qualifications shall not refer, either directly by name, or indirectly by title or description to any other *candidate* or officeholder or to any other *candidate's* or officeholder's qualifications, character or activities, unless such reference is authorized pursuant to Section 27.0620(d).

(b) The statement of qualifications shall not refer, either directly by name, or indirectly by title or description to any City employee or to a City employee's character or activities unless such reference is authorized pursuant to Section 27.0620(d).

Examples of terms the City Clerk will not allow which reference City employees/ City officeholders:

- Reference to the "City" (capital C) is not allowed. In most circumstances it must be a lower case "c" or the word "city" must be removed.

Further examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Elected Officials/Bodies
- City Officials
- City/Government employees
- "City" representatives (City will not be capitalized)
- City Hall
- Government employee unions
- Council
- Referring to specific city Departments (Development Services Department, Public Works, etc.)
- Any reference to past or current city employees (including elected individuals) where individual identification is possible
- police, firefighters, lifeguards support ... (alternatives might include: Public Safety, law enforcement, or officers)

(c) The statement of qualifications shall not include the party affiliation of the *candidate* or membership or activity in partisan political organizations. Please note: No reference to any political party is acceptable as this is a nonpartisan election process.

Past examples include, but are not limited to the following: Use of "independent" in the SOQ within the following statement:

"Elect a fiscally responsible 'independent' to City Council."

The word "independent", in this context, could be interpreted as the partisan party "American Independent" Party. Candidate was offered the opportunity to re-word the statement so the word "independent" is not used as a noun. The acceptable sentence was:

"Elect an 'independent', fiscally responsible leader to City Council."

Another candidate used the word “independent” in the SOQ, in the following manner: “Independent, Nonpartisan, Free from Improper Influence.” This use of “independent” did require re-writing. Since the word is followed by nonpartisan, etc. it clearly denotes the meaning of “independent” and not a reference to the political party.

(d) The statement of qualifications shall not contain language which is prohibited by law to be sent through the mail.

(e) The statement of qualifications shall not contain matter that is unrelated to the *candidate*.

(f) The statement of qualifications shall not contain obscene, vulgar, or profane language.

203.2. CANDIDATE’S PHOTOGRAPH

If the *candidate* desires to have their photograph appear with the statement of qualifications, the *candidate* shall submit an electronic photograph. All photographs in the Sample Ballot & Voter Information pamphlet containing *candidates’* statements of qualifications shall be as nearly uniform in size as possible, except for size reductions necessitated by a *candidate’s* format for their statement of qualifications.

1. Only the head and shoulders portion of the photograph shall be reproduced on the statement; other images appearing in the photograph submitted shall be blurred out to render them unidentifiable or excluded by cropping which will be done by the candidate
2. The photo shall be front facing and no use of uniforms is allowed
3. Photo size is to be no smaller than 1 ½ x 2 inches and 300 dpi
4. Photo should be Black & White/grey scale- not color
Photo file format: High Quality TIFF, JPG, and PNG

If the photo does not meet these requirements the photo may not be reproduced for the Sample Ballot & Voter Information pamphlet.

SECTION 3 – RECALL PETITIONS

300. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedures and specifications of Recall Petitions circulated by proponents for submission to the City Clerk.

(b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of these guidelines.

(c) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to Recall Petitions being circulated for elective offices in the City of San Diego.

(d) Whenever the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

301. RECALL PETITION

The petition shall consist of sheets of white paper uniform in size with dimensions no smaller than 8-1/2 by 11 inches and no greater than 8-1/2 by 14 inches. If the petition contains more than one sheet of paper, it shall be fastened together securely. The recall petition shall be in the following form containing the name and office of the *person* whose recall is sought, a copy of the notice of intention to circulate a recall *petition* and its accompanying statement, and if an answer has been filed, a copy of the answer. If no answer has been filed, the *petition* shall so state.

<u>RECALL PETITION</u>		
PETITION FOR THE RECALL OF _____		
FROM THE OFFICE OF _____		
<i>(The title in the form prescribed above with the blank spaces filled in must be set forth in full at the top of each page of the petition.)</i>		
We, the undersigned registered voters of (The City of San Diego, California) (Council District _____) demand the recall of _____ from the office of _____.		
The following are the reasons for demanding such recall:		
<i>(Insert a copy of the published notice of intention, statement and answer here. If the officer did not answer, insert a statement to that effect here.)</i>		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Signature of Proponents	Residence	Date

302. FORM OF VOTER SIGNATURE SHEETS FOR RECALL PETITION

(a) On the right-hand side of each *voter* signature sheet, a space at least one inch wide shall be left blank for the City *Clerk's* use in verifying the validity or invalidity of the signatures. *Voter* signature sheets shall be arranged and lined to provide space for each *voter's* signature, each *voter's* printed name, place of each *voter's* residence, and date of each *voter's* signature.

(b) Above the signature portion of each *voter* signature sheet, the following language shall appear in clear, readable type no smaller than 12-point in size:

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR BY A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.”

(c) The signature portion of the sheet shall be in substantially the following form:

Name	Residence (No P.O. Boxes)	Date	(Clerk's Use Only)
1. Print _____ Sign _____			
2. Print _____ Sign _____			
3. Print _____ Sign _____			
4. Print _____ Sign _____			

(NOTE: Recall Petitions for Mayor and City Attorney may be signed by any voter of the City. Recall Petitions for Councilmembers who were elected by district vote may be signed only by voters within the district represented by the Councilmember.)

303. FORM OF AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY FOR RECALL PETITION SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE 27.2713

(a) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity shall have the form as specified in San Diego Municipal Code Section 27.2713.

(b) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity must be signed by the circulator in order for the signatures on that petition section to be considered valid.

304. NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

(a) SDMC Section 27.2706 requires proponent to publish a notice of intention to circulate a recall petition once in a newspaper of general circulation twenty-one (21) days prior to circulating the petition.

(b) Proponent must provide a copy of the notice of intention to circulate as published and provide an affidavit of publication to the City Clerk.

(c) The notice of intention to circulate must include the name and office of the person sought to be recalled and the statement of reasons.

(d) A newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation if it meets the definition provided under California Government Code Section 6008.

(e) Proponent is responsible for verifying that a newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation and providing sufficient proof upon request.

SECTION 4 - REFERENDUM PETITIONS

400. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedures and specifications of Referendum Petitions circulated by proponents for submission to the City Clerk.
- (b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of these guidelines.
- (c) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to Referendum Petitions being circulated for the City of San Diego.
- (d) Whenever, the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

401. CONTENTS OF REFERENDARY PETITION

- (a) Referendary *petition* forms shall be furnished by the *proponent*.
- (b) The referendary *petition* shall consist of sheets of white paper uniform in size with dimensions no smaller than 8-1/2 by 11 inches and no greater than 8-1/2 by 14 inches.
- (c) The referendary *petition* may consist of any number of sections. Each section shall contain items specified in Section 401(c)(1) through 401 (c)(4) in the order specified:
 - (1) One or more sheets setting forth the questioned legislative act in full, prepared in accordance with Section 402.
 - (2) A statement of reasons for the *petition*, prepared in accordance with Section 403.
 - (3) One or more *voter* signature sheets, prepared in accordance with Section 404. Any number of *voter* signature sheets may be incorporated into a *petition* section.
 - (4) A *circulator's* affidavit of authenticity, prepared and signed in accordance with SDMC §27.1112.
- (d) The sheets comprising each referendary *petition* section shall be fastened together securely and remain so during circulation for signatures and submittal to the *City Clerk*.

402. FORM OF REFERENDARY PETITION

Any referendary *petition* shall be in substantially the following form, and printed in clear, readable type no smaller than 10-point in size:

REFERENDARY PETITION
REFERENDUM AGAINST A LEGISLATIVE ACT ADOPTED BY
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO.
TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO:

We, the undersigned registered voters of The City of San Diego, California, hereby present this petition to the City Council of The City of San Diego, California, and ask that the City Council repeal, or submit to the registered voters of the City for their adoption or rejection that legislative act adopted by the City Council, on the _____ day of _____, of which the following is a full and correct copy:

(NOTE: Here insert full title and text of the legislative act to be referred, the statement of reasons prepared in accordance with Section 403 and SDMC Section 27.1108; the *voter* signature sheets prepared in accordance with Section 404; and the *circulator's* affidavit of authenticity prepared in accordance with SDMC Section 27.1112)

403. FORM OF STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REFERENDARY PETITION

The statement of reasons shall set forth the reasons for the referendary *petition*. It shall contain no more than 300 words. The statement of reasons shall be printed in clear, readable type no smaller than 10-point in size. It shall be signed by the individual proposing the *petition* or, if the *proponent* is an organization, by two officers of the organization. The individual or officers signing the statement shall also affix the date of signing, and a residence, business or mailing address at which the *proponent* may be reached.

404. FORM OF VOTER SIGNATURE SHEETS FOR REFERENDARY PETITION

(a) On the right hand side of each *voter* signature sheet, a space at least one inch wide shall be left blank for the City *Clerk's* use in verifying the validity or invalidity of the signatures. *Voter* signature sheets shall be arranged and lined to provide space for each *voter's* signature, each *voter's* printed name, place of each *voter's* residence, and date of each *voter's* signature.

(b) Above the signature portion of each *voter* signature sheet, the following language shall appear in clear, readable type no smaller than 12-point in size:

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER
OR BY A VOLUNTEER.

INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS AND ENTITIES FINANCING THIS PETITION SHALL
BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO IS ASKED TO SIGN THIS PETITION.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE DISCLOSURE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY CLERK’S
WEBSITE PAGE AT WWW.SANDIEGO.GOV/CITY-CLERK.”

(c) The signature portion of the sheet shall be in substantially the following form:

Name	Residence (No P.O. Boxes)	Date	(Clerk’s Use Only)
1. Print _____ Sign _____			
2. Print _____ Sign _____			
3. Print _____ Sign _____			
4. Print _____ Sign _____			

**405. CIRCULATOR’S AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY FOR REFERENDARY
PETITION**

(a) Each referendary *petition* section shall have attached to it an affidavit of authenticity of the *circulator*, signed by the *circulator* under California perjury laws.

(b) The circulator’s affidavit of authenticity shall have the form as specified in SDMC Section 27.1112.

(c) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity must be signed by the circulator in order for the signatures on that petition section to be considered valid.

SECTION 5 - INITIATIVE PETITIONS

500. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The purpose of these guidelines is to provide procedures and specifications of Initiative Petitions circulated by proponents for submission to the City Clerk.
- (b) The City Clerk shall, at all times, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and the guidelines included here in a manner consistent with the regulatory purpose of these guidelines.
- (c) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to Initiative Petitions being circulated for the City of San Diego.
- (d) Whenever the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

501. CONTENTS OF INITIATIVE PETITION

- (a) Initiative *petition* forms shall be furnished by the *proponent*.
- (b) The initiative *petition* shall consist of sheets of white paper uniform in size with dimensions no smaller than 8-1/2 by 11 inches and no greater than 8-1/2 by 14 inches; the petition orientation shall be in portrait and not landscape.
- (c) The initiative *petition* may consist of any number of sections. Each section shall contain items Section 501(c) (1) through 501 (c)(4) in the order specified:
 - (1) One or more sheets setting forth the proposed legislative act in full, prepared in accordance with City Clerk Administrative Guidelines.
 - (2) A statement of reasons for the *petition*, prepared in accordance with SDMC Section 27.1010.
 - (3) One or more *voter* signature sheets, prepared in accordance with SDMC Section 27.1011(a). Any number of *voter* signature sheets may be incorporated into a *petition* section.
 - (4) A *circulator's* affidavit of authenticity, prepared and signed in accordance with Section 27.1013.
- (d) The sheets comprising each initiative *petition* section shall be fastened together securely and remain so during circulation for signatures and submittal to the City Clerk.

502. FORM OF INITIATIVE PETITION

Any *petition* initiating a proposed legislative act shall be in substantially the following form, and printed in clear, readable type no smaller than 10-point in size:

INITIATIVE PETITION

To the Honorable City Council of The City of San Diego:

We, the undersigned registered voters of The City of San Diego, California, by this petition hereby respectfully propose the following legislative act be adopted by the City Council or submitted to the registered voters of The City of San Diego for their adoption or rejection:

(NOTE: Here insert a copy of the published notice of intention containing the proposed legislative act in full and the statement of reasons prepared in accordance with Section 503 and San Diego Municipal Code Section 27.1010; the *voter* signature sheets prepared in accordance with Section 504; and the *circulator's* affidavit of authenticity prepared in accordance with Section 27.1013.)

503. FORM OF STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR INITIATIVE PETITION

The statement of reasons shall set forth the reasons for the initiative *petition*. It shall contain no more than 300 words. The statement of reasons shall be printed in clear, readable type no smaller than 10-point in size. It shall be signed by the individual initiating the proposed legislative act or, if the *proponent* is an organization, by two officers of the organization. The individual or officers signing the statement shall also affix the date of signing, and a residence, business or mailing address at which the *proponent* may be reached.

504. FORM OF VOTER SIGNATURE SHEETS FOR INITIATIVE PETITION

(a) On the right hand of each *voter* signature sheet, a space at least one inch wide shall be left blank for the City *Clerk's* use in verifying the validity or invalidity of the signatures. *Voter* signature sheets shall be arranged and lined to provide space for each *voter's* signature, each *voter's* printed name, place of each *voter's* residence, and date of each *voter's* signature.

(b) Above the signature portion of each *voter* signature sheet, the following language shall appear in clear, readable type no smaller than 12-point in size:

“NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS PETITION MAY BE CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER
OR BY A VOLUNTEER.

INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS AND ENTITIES FINANCING THIS PETITION SHALL
BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO IS ASKED TO SIGN THIS PETITION.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE DISCLOSURE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY CLERK’S
WEBSITE PAGE AT WWW.SANDIEGO.GOV/CITY-CLERK.”

(c) The signature portion of the sheet shall be in substantially the following form:

Name	Residence (No P.O. Boxes)	Date	(Clerk’s Use Only)
1. Print _____ Sign _____			
2. Print _____ Sign _____			
3. Print _____ Sign _____			
4. Print _____ Sign _____			

505. CIRCULATOR’S AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHENTICITY FOR INITIATIVE PETITION

(a) Each initiative *petition* section shall have attached to it an affidavit of authenticity of the *circulator*, signed by the *circulator* under California perjury laws.

(b) The circulator’s affidavit of authenticity shall have the form as specified in SDMC Section 27.1013.

(c) The circulator's affidavit of authenticity must be signed by the circulator in order for the signatures on that petition section to be considered valid.

506. PUBLIC OUTREACH REGARDING ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF BALLOT LANGUAGE

The City Clerk will take steps to ensure outreach to community groups reaching a diverse group of voters and residents through dispersal of information to community groups, announcements, media, etc. in order to spread the word to the public about how to access ballot measure language which has been electronically published.

507. ELECTRONIC FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

- (a) Proponent is required to provide to the City Clerk the entire petition language as circulated in an electronic format.
- (b) The proponent will be required to sign that the electronic format is the exact language of the petition as circulated and filed with the City Clerk.
- (c) Any person or entity submitting an argument for or against a measure is required to provide to the City Clerk the entire argument in electronic format.
- (d) The person or entity submitting an argument for or against a measure will be required to sign that the electronic format is the exact language of the argument filed with the City Clerk.
- (e) The electronic format must be in either:
 - a. Microsoft Word
 - b. In Design

508. NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

- (a) SDMC Section 27.1002 requires proponent to publish a notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition once in a newspaper of general circulation twenty-one (21) days prior to circulating the petition.
- (b) Proponent must provide a copy of the notice of intention to circulate as published and provide an affidavit of publication to the City Clerk.
- (c) The notice of intention to circulate must include the initiative text and the statement of reasons.
- (d) A newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation if it meets the definition provided under California Government Code Section 6008.
- (e) Proponent is responsible for verifying that a newspaper is a newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 6 – Records Disposition

600. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the accurate and proper disposition of records and archival materials.

(b) The City Clerk shall, always, apply and interpret the provisions of San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) Chapter 2, Article 2, Division 26; Council Policy 000-25; and Administrative Regulations 85.10 and 85.30.

(c) The guidelines set forth here shall apply only to records retention for City Departments in the City of San Diego.

(d) As the City of San Diego is transitioning to a Master Records Schedule, departments still following their Records Disposition Schedules will still be considered in compliance with the law during the transition period to bring all City departments under the Master Records Schedule.

After the transitioning process and all departments are in compliance with the Master Records Schedule, all previously approved Department unique Record Disposition Schedules, and the General Records Disposition Schedule will be revoked.

(e) Whenever, the word "should" is used in these guidelines, it is recommended, not mandatory.

601. RECORDS COORDINATOR

Every Department Director shall appoint a Records Coordinator for their department:

(a) Records Coordinator acts as the contact for the department for all records-related communication and training. Additionally, they assist with the following:

1. Develop an office files plan
2. Standardize filing procedure
3. Initiate Records Transfers
4. Coordinate requests for access to records in the Records Center.
5. Work with department management to ensure the Department Retention File Plan is accurate and that the department is following the Department Retention File Plan.
6. Educate department staff about the Department Retention Plan and records retention.
7. Ensure that vital records are identified as part of the Department's Retention File Plan and coordinated with Department Directors to ensure that vital records are preserved off-site.
8. Complete Records Management training courses as provided by the Office of the City Clerk and maintain a certificate of completion within their personnel file.
9. Update their department retention file plan every three (3) years; or as needed for new or re-constructed departments with training and assistance provided by the Office of the City Clerk.

602. MASTER RECORDS SCHEDULE

Master Records Schedule per SDMC §22.2603(5) shall be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) The Master Records Schedule is created to ensure all city business functions and record series have been identified and legal codes for retention policy cited.
- (b) The Department Director via their Records Coordinator will inform the City Clerk within 30 days if they believe any new functions have been established that may require a new record series to be created.
- (c) A Department Director must retain and destroy any record under their charge in accordance with the Master Records Series. (d) Conversion from the Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) to the Master Records Schedule (MRS) shall be done through a multi-year process per department in consultation with the Office of the City Clerk and City Attorney's Office. During this conversion all Departments shall continue to use their existing RDS until the department's cross-walk has been completed and implemented.
- (e) The City Attorney, or designee, shall provide legal review of all revisions and additions to the Master Records Schedule and provide assistance with identifying legal codes.

603. RECORDS CENTER

The Records Center pursuant to SDMC §22.2603(6) shall be operated by the City Clerk and subject to the following provisions:

- (a) The records center is provided to facilitate the storage of City of San Diego inactive records.
- (b) Any City department may transfer inactive records with a retention of at least two (2) years to the Record Center for storage. However, records that are within nine (9) months of becoming destruction eligible must be kept within the department until the records have met their legal retention. Departments shall destroy these records by using the CC9 Form <https://citynet.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cc09.pdf> for in-house destruction unless any destruction eligible records have been identified as historical by the Office of the City Clerk. In which case, departments shall follow Section 604 (below).
- (c) Internal City requests for department records stored in the Record Center may be requested for check-out by utilizing the 1590 Record Request Form (<https://citynet.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/cc1590.pdf>). Record Requests can be filled out on line and emailed to recordsmanagement@sandiego.gov. Submittals must be sent between the hours of 7:30AM to 3:30 PM. in order to be available for next day pick-up at 10:00 AM. Any questions regarding records from the public can be directed to cityclerk@sandiego.gov.
- (d) Departments will be notified when their records held by the Records Center are eligible for destruction. Once notified, Department Directors are responsible for following their schedule appropriately

(e) As a citywide resource, the effective management of the records center is dependent on the resources and space available.

604. ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Retention and preservation of archival materials and historical records pursuant to SDMC §22.2603(7) shall be subject to the following provisions and process:

(a) The City Clerk shall appraise department historical records for inclusion into the City Clerk Archives and review all department transfer list submittals and destruction eligible lists for potential archival materials and historical records.

1. Records deemed archival/historical will be flagged for the Department Director and requested to be transferred to the City Clerk Archives for permanent storage. They will no longer be the responsibility of the originating department.

(b) In most instances, Archival Materials/Historical Records best practices indicate that records should be kept in a cold vault to be preserved and maintained in a humidity and temperature-controlled environment with a waterless suppression system in the event of a fire.

605. VITAL RECORDS

Retention and preservation of Vital Records as defined in SDMC §22.2602 and AR 85.30 shall be subject to the following provisions and process:

(a) Vital Records which are records necessary to reconstruct and continue the City's operations in the event of a disaster or emergency.

1. *Vital records* include, but are not limited to the San Diego Charter; the San Diego Municipal Code; meeting minutes, ordinances or resolutions of the City Council; published City Attorney Memoranda or Opinions; deeds; leases; certificates of annexations; the annual budget adopted by the City of San Diego. vital statistics; land and tax records; license registers and articles of incorporation; records necessary to conduct emergency operations; records necessary to re-establish normal functions and protect the rights; and interest of government.

(b) Record Coordinators are responsible for identifying records series that are vital as part of the Department Retention File Plan.

(c) A copy of each department's Vital Record Protection plan will be kept in the Office of the City Clerk.

(d) Vital Records are reviewed, updated or revised every three (3) years during the Department Retention File Plan update process, unless the department is a new or restructured department.

(e) Please refer to AR 85.30 for further information on how to determine if a record is a vital record and the responsibilities of the Department Director and City Clerk.

606. RECORDS

Pursuant to SDMC §22.2606(d) shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) If personal accounts and devices are used to conduct City business, those writings, including emails and text messages that relate substantively to the conduct of City business, are potential City records and may be subject to disclosure under the CPRA. This extends to all personal electronic devices, including personal cell phones, tablets, and computers.

(b) Paper records are the official records of the City's Records Center. Long Term-Electronic records that have a retention period that exceeds ten (10) years MUST be printed in hard copy as the official record and kept in the department until final disposition or converted to microfilm and sent to the Record Center for storage, per their Department Retention File Plan.

607. TRUSTED DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Pursuant to SDMC §22.2606(e) shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) Users and systems designers must consult the City Clerk and the City's established retention requirements set forth in the Master Records Schedule, AR 85.10, and governing authority within the San Diego Municipal Code.

(b) Any system being implemented should ensure that the system is able to retrieve the information throughout the required document life cycle. The storage media and its life expectancy rating must be considered, hardware and software obsolescence issues must be evaluated, and a sound migration strategy must be developed to ensure access.

(c) A trusted document management system ensures that all electronically stored information can be considered to be a true and accurate copy of the original information received regardless of the original format. The trusted document management system must ensure that at least two separate copies of the electronically stored information are created meeting, at a minimum, all of the following criteria:

1. The trusted document management system must utilize both hardware and media storage methodologies to prevent unauthorized additions during the approved lifecycle of the stored information; and
2. The trusted document management system must be verifiable through independent audit processes ensuring that there is no plausible way for electronically stored information to be modified, altered, or deleted during the approved information life cycle; and
3. The trusted document management system must write at least one copy of the electronic document or record into electronic media that does not permit unauthorized additions, deletions, or to the original document and that is to be stored and maintained in a safe and separate location.

(d) It is important to note that trusted document management systems incorporate not only technology, but also require adherence to organizational policies ensuring proper electronic document or record handling, processing as required by the organization (typically documented in

the Master Records Retention Policy and schedule) and electronic document management software or application components.

(e) Each Department head shall coordinate with the City's IT department and the City Clerk to ensure their Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS) or Electronic Records Management System (ERMS) or Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) meets the requirements of a trusted system.

(f) This policy applies to all documents that are identified to be official records that are stored in an EDMS, ERMS or ECMS with the intent of destroying the original hardcopy.

(g) Documents that have a retention that exceeds ten (10) years must be printed in hard copy as the official record or converted to microfilm and sent to the City Clerk Record Center as required by the Department Retention File Plan.

History Table

Amended on 12-8-2015 (as companion item for O-20591 and O-20593) by [R-310146](#)

Amended 6-6-2017 by [R-311167](#)

Amended on 10-31-2017 by [R-311382](#)

Amended on 6-19-2018 by [R-311820](#)

Amended on 4-9-2019 (as a companion item for O-21063) by [R-312283](#)

Amended on 6-2-2020 by [R-313061](#)

Amended on 9-21-2022 by [R-314313](#)

Amended on 6-12-*2023 by [R-314938](#)