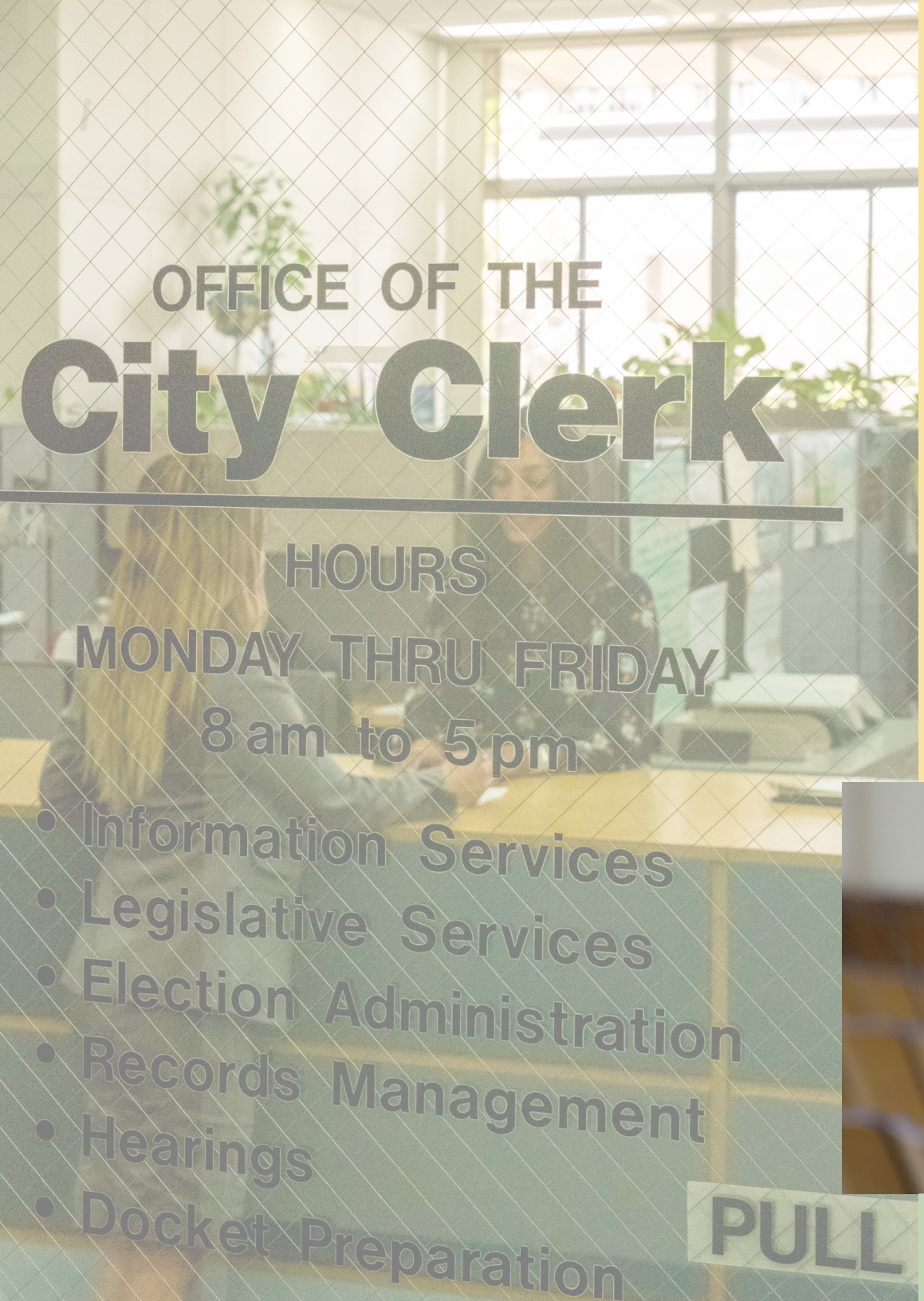

WHAT CAN I RUN FOR?

There are three kinds of elective offices in the City of San Diego:

- Mayor
- City Attorney
- City Councilmemeber (by District)

Each of these offices is nonpartisan.

Officeholders are elected to a four-year term. There is a term limit of two terms in the City.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- To run for office, you must be a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old.
- Citywide office, you must be a registered voter anywhere in the city at least 30 days prior to the date you file your nomination papers.
- District Office, you must be a registered voter of the district you want to serve for at least 30 days prior to the date you file your nomination papers.
- Upon taking on any office, you must be a resident of the appropriate jurisdiction.

NOMINATION PROCESS

1) Nomination period (E-118 to E-89 days before the election) pick up your nomination papers at the Office of the City Clerk.
   - You will be required to submit a Statement & Affidavit of Nominee to receive your nomination petition. This document requires you to provide your name, the office you are running for, your date and place of birth, occupation and your street address for the past four years.

2) Circulate your nominating petition.
   - Council candidate, you must gather at least 100 signatures of people who are qualified to vote in the district you wish to represent.
   - Mayor or City Attorney, you must gather at least 200 signatures of qualified voters in the city.

3) Complete and file your nomination papers.

   File completed nomination papers with the City Clerk, all at the same time, no later than 5 p.m. on the last day of the filing period, E-89 days prior to the Election:
   - Submit nominating petition with the minimum number of signatures required for the office being sought (Council v. Mayor or City Attorney).
   - File a Designation of Title indicating the candidate's principal profession, vocation or occupation, using no more than (4) words. This designation will appear on the ballot. (optional)
   - File a Statement of Qualifications and photo to be included in the sample ballot. (optional). These must be filed electronically by e-mailing them on the day you will be submitting your nomination papers using the template and guidelines provided by the City Clerk.
   - File form "Provisions of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices." (optional)
   - File a Statement of Economic Interests, using the City Clerk's Electronic Filing System (ELF).
   - Pay Filing fee
     - The filing fee for council candidates is $200. This can be offset by an additional 800 qualified voter signatures ($0.25 per signature via refund).
     - The filing fee for mayor or city attorney candidates is $500. This can be offset by an additional 2,000 qualified voter signatures ($0.25 per signature via refund).

CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS

You can file your Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501) before the Candidate Nomination Period in the Office of the City Clerk and if applicable you should file a Statement of Organization Recipient Committee (Form 410) with bank account information with the Secretary of State and a copy with the City Clerk. For further information go to www.fppc.ca.gov.

File campaign disclosure statements as necessary. Candidates, officeholders and committees supporting or opposing candidates are required to file statements disclosing contributions received and expenditures made. Make yourself familiar with the City of San Diego's Election Campaign Control Ordinance (ECCO). www.sandiego.gov/ethics

During the Nomination period the Office of the City Clerk offers candidate orientations. Call ahead to confirm the schedule. At orientation, you will learn how to fill out the nomination paperwork and what is required of you.

For additional Information you can read more in the Candidate Information Manual available on-line at www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk.

ELECTION CYCLE

The elections are designed so council terms overlap. Elections for the odd-numbered district seats, Council Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, are scheduled for 2020, 2024, and 2028. The offices of Mayor and City Attorney are filled at the same time as the odd-numbered district seats. Elections to fill the even-numbered district seats, Council Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8, are scheduled for 2022, 2026 and 2030.

The City's regular elections are consolidated with the statewide primary and general elections.

Candidates are first nominated in the municipal primary election. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes will run off in the general election. In the event only one candidate has qualified for the ballot in the municipal primary election for a particular office, that candidate shall be deemed and declared by the Council to be elected to the office after the primary election results are certified.

Winners take office at 10 a.m. on December 10. If December 10 falls on a weekend or holiday, the term will begin at 10 a.m. on the next calendar day that is not a weekend or holiday.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

Nomination papers for the primary election may be picked up from the Office of the City Clerk no earlier than the first business day after the close of regular nominations for the primary election. They must be filed no later than 14 days before the election and may only be filed in the primary election. See SD Municipal Code Sections 27.0301-27.03245 for details.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

This brochure is a basic guide only. You should become familiar with all the applicable provisions of the City Charter, the San Diego Municipal Code, the City Clerk Administrative Guidelines, the Election Campaign Control Ordinance and the Political Reform Act of 1974 as amended. Failure to comply with nomination process requirements, campaign rules and campaign disclosure reporting may jeopardize an otherwise successful campaign effort.

The City's Zoning Ordinance deals with matters such as campaign headquarters and where campaign signs can be posted. The City Clerk's Office is not empowered to provide interpretations on these matters.

HAVE A QUESTION?

We're here to help!