

To: Current Elected Officials

Subject: New Confidential Voter Status Option Under AB 1392

Dear Elected Official,

Effective January 1, 2026, Assembly Bill (AB) 1392 added Elections Code section 2166.9, which allows elected officials to request that certain voter registration information be kept confidential. Specifically, your residence address, telephone number, and email address listed on your voter registration record may now be made confidential upon request.

Important: This confidentiality is not automatic. If you wish to have your voter registration made confidential, you must contact the Kern County Elections Department and submit the enclosed form.

What Does Confidential Voter Status Mean?

- You will not appear on any public roster for any election conducted in Kern County.
- You will receive all election materials and ballots at your address on file. This address can be disclosed to the public under specific circumstances.
- If you vote in-person, you will be required to vote provisionally.
- You must notify the Elections Department immediately if you update your voter registration – including at the DMV – or your confidential status will terminate.
- Confidential status ends when you vacate your elected office or opt out.
- This status applies only to you, not to other members of your household.

Next Steps

1. Complete the enclosed Request/Opt-Out Confidential Status-Elected Official form.
2. Return form by:

Mail: Kern County Elections Division
1115 Truxtun Ave, 1st Floor
Bakersfield CA. 93301
Attn: Registration
Fax: (661) 868-3768
Email: elections@kerncounty.com

If you do not wish to make your voter registration confidential, please fill out the appropriate section on the Form. You may also change your status at any time by contacting our office.

For questions or assistance, please contact us at (661) 868-3590 or by email at elections@kerncounty.com.



Kern County
OPT-OUT/REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL STATUS – CANDIDATE/WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
(Elections Code § 2166.9)

Assembly Bill (AB) 1392 (Ch. 300, Stats. of 2025) added Elections Code section 2166.9, which makes the residence address, telephone number, and email address listed on the affidavit of voter registration for an elected official or candidate confidential.

Elections Code section 2166.9 is reproduced below and attached.

A candidate who does not wish to have "confidential voter status" may opt out when filing their Declaration of Candidacy provided by a county elections official. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (j).)

Upon receipt of the request, the county elections official shall remove the confidential designation from the individual's voter registration record within five business days. (Paragraph (2)(C) of subdivision (j).)

**Candidate/
Write-In
Candidate
Name, Office,
and Opt-out
Confidential
Status**

I, _____

Name of Candidate/Write-In Candidate

do not wish to have my residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential.*

I am a candidate/write-in candidate for the office of _____

*I understand that opting out of confidentiality my name will appear on any list, roster, or index produced by the county elections official (Elections Code section 2166.9(d)(1)). I will appear on the roster when voting in person.

X

Candidate/Write-In Candidate's Signature

Date Signed: Month/Day/Year

**Candidate/
Write-In
Candidate
Name, Office,
and Re-
request
Confidential
Status**

I, _____

Name of Candidate/Write-In Candidate

Re-request that my residence address, telephone number, and email address be made confidential.*

I am a candidate/write-in candidate for the office of _____

*I understand that by making my voter registration record confidential, my name will not appear on any list, roster, or index produced by the county elections official (Elections Code section 2166.9(d)(1)). By opting into confidentiality, I will not appear on the roster when voting in person and may need to vote using a provisional ballot.

X

Candidate/Write-In Candidate's Signature

Date Signed: Month/Day/Year

(TO BE ENTERED BY ELECTIONS OFFICIAL)

VoteCal ID:

Date:

By:



Kern County

OPT-OUT/REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL STATUS – CANDIDATE/WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

(Elections Code § 2166.9)

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For your reference, Elections Code section 2166.9 is reproduced below:

(a) For purposes of this section, "elected official or candidate" means a federal, state, or local elected official or a candidate for an elected federal, state, or local office.

(b) An elected official or candidate shall have their residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(c) (1) When a person files nomination papers for an elected federal or state office, the Secretary of State shall provide to each county elections official a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in each respective county.

(2) When a person files nomination papers for an elected local office, the county elections official shall add that individual's name to a list identifying each elected official or candidate residing in that county. The county elections official shall periodically update the list for each election cycle.

(3) Within five business days of receipt of the list described in paragraph (1) or, for an office for which nomination papers are filed with the county elections official, within five business days of the filing of nomination papers with the county elections official, the county elections official shall make confidential that elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address appearing on the affidavit of registration.

(d) (1) The county elections official, in producing any list, roster, or index, shall exclude voters with a confidential voter status pursuant to this section.

(2) Within 60 days of moving to a new county, if available in the new county, the elected official or candidate shall apply for confidential voter status pursuant to this section. The elections official of the new county, upon notice of the confidential voter moving into the county, shall do all of the following:

(A) Contact the confidential voter and provide information regarding the application for confidential voter status in the new county.

(B) Honor the confidential voter status from the former county for 60 days from the date of notice.

(C) Pursuant to paragraph (1), exclude the confidential voter in any list, roster, or index during the 60-day period.

(D) Remove the confidential voter status if the new voter has not obtained or cannot obtain confidential voter status pursuant to this section in the new county during the 60-day period.

(e) An elected official or candidate shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

(f) An elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address shall remain confidential until, for an elected official, the official no longer holds the office or, for a candidate, the winning candidate takes office.

(g) A county or county elections official shall not be liable for taking or failing to take the actions described in this section when the county or county elections official has received erroneous information from the Secretary of State.

(h) An action in negligence shall not be maintained against any government entity or officer or employee thereof as a result of the disclosure of the information that is the subject of this section, except by a showing of gross negligence or willfulness.

(i) An elected official or candidate holding office as of the effective date of this section shall contact their county elections official to ensure their voter registration record has been made confidential in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section. County elections officials shall make the elected official's information confidential when contacted by the elected official or candidate.

(j) (1) A candidate who does not wish to have confidential voter status may opt out when completing their candidate filing statement provided by a county elections official.

(2) (A) An elected official who wishes to opt out of confidential voter status may submit a letter to the county elections official declaring their decision to be exempt from the requirements of this section.



Kern County

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(B) A request pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include the elected official's full name, voter registration address, and a clear statement that they wish to opt out of having their residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section.

(C) Upon receipt of the request, the county elections official shall remove the confidential designation from the individual's voter registration record within five business days.

(D) The county elections official shall notify the Secretary of State and any other relevant local elections officials of the decision to opt out within five business days of processing the request.

(E) An elected official who opts out may reapply for confidential voter status at any time while serving in or running for office, and confidential voter status shall be reinstated in accordance with this section upon receipt of the request.

(k) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, an elected official or candidate's residence address, telephone number, and email address made confidential pursuant to this section may be disclosed only for bona fide journalistic or governmental purposes. A person seeking an elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for a journalistic purpose pursuant to this section shall apply to the Secretary of State or to a county elections official as specified in paragraph (2).

(2) (A) A person seeking a federal or state elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit all of the following to the Secretary of State:

(i) A completed California Voter Registration File Request application.

(ii) A letter of authorization or affiliation from the media outlet that the person represents. If the person submitting the request is a member of the media, a press pass may be submitted in lieu of a letter of authorization.

(iii) A declaration under penalty of perjury attesting to the intended journalistic use of the information.

(B) A person seeking a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes shall submit requests to the county elections official or other local elections official.

(C) A county elections official shall process a request for a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes consistent with the requirements of regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(D) The county elections official shall retain records of all requests for, and disclosures of, a local elected official or candidate's confidential residence address, telephone number, and email address for journalistic purposes. The county elections official may reject a request that does not clearly adhere to the requirements of this subdivision.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, "journalistic purposes" shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with subdivision (b) of Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution.