

**Candidate Information**  
**Santa Cruz City Council**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. Who do I contact to ask questions about the election or file nomination papers?**

A. City Clerk Administrator Bren Lehr at (831) 420-5038. Offices are located at 809 Center Street, Room 9.

**Q. How many City Council seats will be placed on the November 4, 2014 ballot?**

A. Three full-term seats, 4 year terms. Two seats held by incumbents, and one seat is at-large because incumbent has termed out.

**Q. What are the nomination period dates and hours of operation?**

A. July 14 through August 8, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and by appointment only on Fridays (due to City Hall closure). If any eligible incumbent does not file by August 8, the nomination period will be extended from August 9 through August 13, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

**Q. What are the qualifications to run for City Council?**

A. Section 602 of the Charter of the City of Santa Cruz states, "Qualifications. A person shall be eligible to be nominated for, or to hold office as a member of the Council only if such person is a registered qualified voter of this City, and shall have been for at least thirty (30) days next preceding nomination or appointment, a resident of the City of Santa Cruz, or of territory annexed thereto."

**Q. How many signatures are required on the nomination paper?**

A. At least twenty (20) and no more than thirty (30) registered voters of the City of Santa Cruz.

**Q. Does a Councilmember receive a stipend for serving on the Council?**

A. Yes. Councilmembers receive \$1,551.31 per month. The Mayor receives \$3,102.66 per month. Each Councilmember receives a \$350 per month car allowance, and a parking permit. Health insurance is available. The City pays into the Public Employees' Retirement System. Each Councilmember is allotted \$510.00 per year for office expenses, and the Mayor receives \$1,275 per year.

**Q. Can I run for the office of Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz?**

A. No. The Mayor is elected from within the Council by the Councilmembers.

**Q. What days does the Council meet for regular and special meetings?**

A. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month for regular meetings:

- Closed sessions typically begin at 1:30 p.m.
- Afternoon open sessions typically begin at 2:30 p.m. and may include a 7:00 p.m. evening session

1<sup>st</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month for possible special meetings:

- Open sessions typically start at 7:00 p.m. but may start earlier

Meetings are typically cancelled in August and the second meeting in December for a recess.

**Q. Does a Councilmember serve on City Committees and Outside Agency Committees?**

- A. Yes. Councilmembers each serve on 5 or 6 (out of approximately 21) City Groups and Outside Agencies, i.e. Conference and Visitors Council; Criminal Justice Council; Cultural Council; Library Joint Powers Authority Board; LAFCO; Santa Cruz Metro Transit District.

Additionally, councilmembers make appointments to approximately 20 city advisory bodies and Council committees, such as the Planning Commission, Water Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, etc.

**Q. Is there training for new Councilmembers?**

- A. A Councilmembers' Handbook is included with the City Councilmember Candidate Packet. This handbook will familiarize candidates with rules of procedure for conduct of City Council business, agendas, decorum in Council meetings, duties of the presiding officer, etc.

Additionally, an orientation for new Councilmembers will be provided by the City Manager and key department heads.

**Q. As a Councilmember, do I have to disclose personal financial information?**

- A. Yes. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) requires that new Councilmembers file an assuming office statement and file annually thereafter. Form 700 is a public document that requires you to disclose certain interests such as stocks, including IRAs or 401Ks; business entities; sole proprietorships; partnerships; corporations; trusts; rental property in the jurisdiction; non-governmental salaries of the public official and spouse/registered domestic partner; gifts from non-family members; and travel payments from third parties (not your employer).

**Q. Does the City have a Campaign Expenditure and Contribution Limitations Ordinance?**

A. Yes. Candidates who agree to abide by the Voluntary Campaign Expenditure and Mandatory Contribution Limitations agreement will receive certain benefits in exchange.

By signing the agreement, a candidate agrees to spend no more than **\$38,064** on their campaign and accept no more **\$350 from individuals and organizations**.

The benefits include at no cost to the candidate:

- Being prominently identified on the City's website with a photograph; and
- A 400-word candidates statement in English and another language if desired (however, the City will not provide translation services and the two statements together cannot exceed 400 words).

**Q. Where can I find information pertaining to map of precincts and index of registered voters?**

A. Contact the Santa Cruz County Elections Office, 701 Ocean Street, Room 210, (831) 454-2060.

**Q. Where can I find access to the current California Elections Code?**

A. Access is available at the following locations:

- County Law Library
- Any Public Library
- City Clerk Administrator's Office
- California website at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=elec&codebody=&hits=20>

**Q. What are the requirements for signs?**

A. California Code Section 5405.3 Outdoor Political Advertising – State Law – Business and Professions Code states the following:

A temporary political sign is a sign which:

- (a) Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election;
- (b) Is placed not sooner than 90 days prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after that election;
- (c) Is no larger than 32 square feet; and
- (d) Has had a statement of responsibility filed with the department certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the temporary political sign and who will reimburse the department for any cost incurred to remove it.

The Clerk's office is not responsible for enforcing sign laws and will not investigate violations. The law directs the Department of Transportation to remove signs that do not comply with the regulations before an election and to bill the responsible party for removal costs after the election.

**Q. When do I file a form 501 (Candidate Intention Statement)?**

A. Prior to raising or spending any money.

**Q. When do I file a form 410 (Statement of Organization recipient Committee)?**

A. Within 10 days of raising or spending \$1,000. The original copy must be filed with the Secretary of State and a copy provided to the City Clerk Administrator.

**Q. When do I file a form 460 (Consolidated Campaign Disclosure Form)?**

A. First pre-election statement covering January 1 through September 30, 2014 (or start date of first contribution received) by October 5, 2014

Second pre-election statement covering October 1 through October 20, 2014 by October 23, 2014

Third pre-election statement covering October 21 through October 31, 2014 by October 31, 2014

Successful and Non-successful candidates must file a post-election statement covering October 31 through December 31, 2014 by January 31, 2015). If candidate terminates his or her controlled committee he or she must file immediately with the City Clerk Administrator a Form 460 termination and Form 401 termination to the Secretary of State.