

# LITERATURE REQUIREMENTS

## Section 16. Elections Code

A copy of Section 84305 of the Government Code shall be provided by the elections official to each candidate or his or her agent at the time of filing the declaration of candidacy and to the proponents of a local initiative or referendum at the time of filing the petitions.

# MASS MAILING REQUIREMENTS

## Section 84305. Government Code

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass mailing unless the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee are shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the candidate's, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate's, or political party committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to Section 84504.2 unless the name, street address, and city of the committee is shown on the outside of each piece of mail in the mass mailing and on at least one of the inserts included within each piece of mail of the mailing in no less than 6-point type that is in a color or print that contrasts with the background so as to be easily legible. A post office box may be stated in lieu of a street address if the committee's address is a matter of public record with the Secretary of State.

(b) If the sender of the mass mailing is a single candidate or committee, the name, street address, and city of the candidate or committee need only be shown on the outside of each piece of mail.

(c) (1) A candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee shall not send a mass electronic mailing unless the name of the candidate or committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing.

(2) A committee, other than a candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate or a political party committee, shall not send a mass electronic mailing that is not required to include a disclosure pursuant to Section 84502 or 84504.3 unless the name of the committee is shown in the electronic mailing preceded by the words "Paid for by" in at least the same size font as a majority of the text in the electronic mailing.

(d) If the sender of a mass mailing is a controlled committee, the name of the person controlling the committee shall be included in addition to the information required by subdivision (a).

(e) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Mass electronic mailing" means sending more than 200 substantially similar pieces of electronic mail within a calendar month. "Mass electronic mailing" does not include a communication that was solicited by the recipient, including, but not limited to, acknowledgments for contributions or information that the recipient communicated to the organization.

(2) "Sender" means the candidate, candidate controlled committee established for an elective office for the controlling candidate, or political party committee who pays for the largest portion of expenditures attributable to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing which are reportable pursuant to Sections 84200 to 84216.5, inclusive.

(3) To "pay for" a share of the cost of a mass mailing means to make, to promise to make, or to incur an obligation to make, any payment: (A) to any person for the design, printing, postage, materials, or other costs of the mailing, including salaries, fees, or commissions, or (B) as a fee or other consideration for an endorsement or, in the case of a ballot measure, support or opposition, in the mailing.

(f) This section does not apply to a mass mailing or mass electronic mailing that is paid for by an independent expenditure.

# PENAL PROVISIONS – ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

## **Section 18303. Election Code**

Every person who violates Section 84305 of the Government Code relating to mass mailing is subject to the penal provisions set forth in Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 91000) of Title 9 of the Government Code.

## **Section 91000. Government Code**

(a) Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of this title is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) In addition to other penalties provided by law, a fine of up to the greater of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or three times the amount the person failed to report properly or unlawfully contributed, expended, gave or received may be imposed upon conviction for each violation.

(c) Prosecution for violation of this title must be commenced within four years after the date on which the violation occurred.

## **Section 91001. Government Code**

(a) Attorney General is responsible for enforcing the criminal provisions of this title with respect to state agencies, lobbyists and state elections. The district attorney of any county in which a violation occurs has concurrent powers and responsibilities with the Attorney General.

(b) The civil prosecutor is primarily responsible for enforcement of the civil penalties and remedies of this title. The civil prosecutor is the commission with respect to the state or any state agency, except itself. The Attorney General is the civil prosecutor with respect to the commission. The district attorneys are the civil prosecutors with respect to any other agency. The civil prosecutor may bring any civil action under this title which could be brought by a voter or resident of the jurisdiction. Upon written authorization from a district attorney, the commission may bring any civil action under this title which could be brought by a voter or resident of the jurisdiction. Under such circumstances, Section 91007 shall not apply to the commission.

(c) Whether or not a violation is inadvertent, negligent or deliberate, and the presence or absence of good faith shall be considered in applying the remedies and sanctions of this title.

# DEFINITION OF MASS MAILING AND SENDER

## **Section 18435. California Code of Regulations**

(a) A "mass mailing" has been made when over two hundred substantially similar pieces of mail have been sent within a calendar month.

(b) The sender, as used in Government Code Section 84305, is the candidate or committee who pays for the largest portion of expenditures attributable to the designing, printing, and posting of the mailing which are reportable under Government Code Sections 84200 through 84217.

(c) The identification required by Section 84305 must be preceded by the words "Paid for by." These words must be presented in the same size and color as the identification required by Section 84305, and must be immediately adjacent to and above or immediately adjacent to and in front of the required identification unless otherwise specified by statute.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Sections 82041.5 and 84305, Government Code.

## **Section 18435.5. California Code of Regulations**

(a) Section 84305.5 requires a slate mailer to identify the slate mailer organization or committee sending the slate mailer, and to designate by an asterisk(\*) each candidate and each ballot measure supported or opposed in a slate mailer for which payment of \$100 or more has been received by the organization or committee (either from the candidate, ballot measure committee, or from any other person "at the behest" of a candidate or ballot measure committee as defined in Regulation 18225.7).

(b) To ensure that it is easily legible, the Notice to Voters required by Section 84305.5 shall appear with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the statement and must appear on a plain background, not superimposed over an illustration or a patterned background. Examples of a reasonable degree of color contrast that would meet the standard required by Section 84305.5 are when the disclaimer is printed in black text on a white background or a similar degree of color contrast between the background and the text of the disclaimer.

(c) **Slate Mailers in Multiple Languages.** The Notice to Voters in a slate mailer shall appear in English. In addition, if all or a significant portion of the slate mailer appears in a language other than English, the Notice to Voters must also appear in that language.

(d) In addition to applying to slate mailers sent by traditional mail, the slate mailer identification and disclaimer requirements of Section 84305.5 apply to slate mailers distributed electronically.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Section 84305.5, Government Code.

## PENAL PROVISIONS

(Continued)

Any person who files or submits for filing a Nomination Paper or Declaration of Candidacy knowing that it or any part of it has been made falsely is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state prison for sixteen months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment. **§ 18203**

Any person who willfully suppresses all or any part of a Nomination Paper or Declaration of Candidacy either before or after filing is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the state prison for sixteen months or two or three years or by both such fine and imprisonment. **§ 18204**

A person shall not directly or through any other person advance, pay, solicit, or receive or cause to be advanced, paid, solicited, or received any money or other valuable consideration to or for the use of any person in order to induce a person not to become or to withdraw as a candidate for public office. Violation of this section shall be punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for sixteen months or two or three years. **§ 18205**

Any candidate in an election or incumbent in a recall election who knowingly makes a false statement of a material fact in a Candidate's Statement of Qualifications, prepared pursuant to sections 11327 or 13307, with the intent to mislead the voters in connection with his/her campaign for nomination or election to a nonpartisan office is punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) **§ 18351**

No person, on Election Day or at any time that a voter may be casting a ballot, shall, within 100 feet of a polling place, a satellite location, or an elections official's office:

- (a) Circulate an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination petition or any other petition;
- (b) Solicit a vote or speak to a voter on the subject of marking his/her ballot;
- (c) Place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his/her qualifications except as provided in section 14240; and
- (d) Do any electioneering.

As used in this section "100 feet of a polling place, a satellite location, or an elections official's office" means a distance of 100 feet from the room or rooms in which voters are signing the roster and casting ballots.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. **§ 18370**

(a) No candidate or representative of a candidate, and no proponent, opponent, or representative of a proponent or opponent, of an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or of a charter amendment, shall solicit the vote of a vote-by-mail voter, or do any electioneering, while in the residence or in the immediate presence of the voter, and during the time he/she knows the absentee voter is voting.

(b) Any person who knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) This section shall not be construed to conflict with any provisions of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, nor to preclude electioneering by mail or telephone or in public places, except as prohibited by section 18370, or by any other provision of law.

**§ 18371**

No one who holds, or who is seeking election or appointment to, any office shall, directly or indirectly, offer or arrange for any increase in compensation or salary for an employee of a state or local agency in exchange for, or a promise of, a contribution or loan to any committee controlled directly or indirectly by the person who holds, or who is seeking election or appointment to, an office. A violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period not exceeding one year, a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

**Gov't. Code § 3205.5**