

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

CITY OF UKIAH



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKET

**CITY OF UKIAH
GENERAL INFORMATION**

OFFICE:	<u>City Council</u>	<u>Term Expires:</u>
	Susan Sher, Mayor	2026
	Juan V. Orozco, Vice Mayor	2026
	Heather Criss, Councilmember	2028
	Mari Rodin, Councilmember	2026
	Douglas F. Crane, Councilmember	2028
SALARY:	Current Salary =\$850 per month.	
BENEFITS:	Councilmembers are eligible for a medical allowance of \$1,438.00 per month <i>(Equivalent to the CIRA/PRISM Anthem EPO 500 employee only premium,)</i> toward the City's health care provider. This allowance is provided towards City health plans only.	
TERM:	Council: Four (4) years, elected by the voters. Mayor: A new Mayor is appointed by the City Council on a rotational basis each year.	
MEETING DATES:	First and third Wednesdays of each month, as well as other special meetings, as scheduled. Councilmembers also sit on various Boards and Commissions on behalf of the City of Ukiah.	
QUALIFICATIONS:	To be eligible to hold office, a person must reside in the City of Ukiah city limits, be 18 years of age, and be a registered voter at the time nomination papers were issued. (Government Code Sections 34882, 34904, 36502).	
TIME COMMITMENT:	Approximately 25 to 35 hours a month.	

GENERAL INFORMATION

The following is a summary of election information. It is not a substitute for the provisions of state and local law which it summarizes. An attempt has been to make this summary accurate, but if there are any differences between this summary and the applicable provisions of state law or the Ukiah City Code or duly adopted City Resolutions, the state and local law will prevail.

1. **CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible to hold office as a member of the City Council, a candidate must be a registered voter within the corporate limits of the city of Ukiah at the time nomination documents are issued by the City Clerk. An eligible voter in the city of Ukiah must be an American citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of the city. If you meet these requirements but are not a registered voter of the city, the City Clerk can register you at the time you request nomination documents.

2. **OFFICES VACANT**

Three City Council seats, full terms of four years.

3. **FILING PERIOD FOR NOMINATION DOCUMENTS**

Section 10220 - Elections Code

Monday, July 13, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. will be the first date and time that nomination documents will be available from the City Clerk's Office, Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, California.

Friday, August 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. will be the final date and time for filing any nomination documents if an incumbent files. If an incumbent does not file, the nomination period is extended (see below).

Write-In Candidates can pick up nomination documents starting Monday, September 7, 2026. Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. will be the final date and time for filing any nomination documents.

EXTENSION IF INCUMBENT DOESN'T FILE

Section 10225 - Elections Code

If nomination documents for an incumbent City Councilmember are not filed by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7, 2026, the Nomination Period will be extended - for non-incumbents only - until Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE: The City Clerk's office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (*except for 5:00 p.m. deadline days, in which the office stays open until 5:00 p.m.*) Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

4. **FILING FEE**

The City of Ukiah does not collect a filing fee. However, candidates are required to pay the printing, and translation (if desired), costs of the Candidate's Statement. (See page 7 of this Guide for additional information regarding costs.)

If you file a Voluntary Spending Limit Statement, when you file your nomination petition, the City will pay 50% of those costs. (See Ukiah Campaign Reform Act, Section 2081.)

5. **CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

Enclosed in the *County's Candidate's Information Packet* is a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices (pages 4 & 5). In endorsing this Code, you pledge to conduct your campaign in a fair and honest manner. Endorsement of the Code is voluntary and is not a requirement. If you choose to sign the Code, it will be on file in the City Clerk's Office and on the City's website for public inspection.

OFFICIAL FILING REQUIREMENTS

1. **OFFICIAL NOMINATION PAPER**

Sections 10220 - 10222

The **Nomination Paper (Official Filing Form)** will be furnished only by the City Clerk. At the time of issuance, the City Clerk will type on the form the name of the candidate and the office for which he/she is running. The City Clerk will affix her signature and date of issuance on it. Only one candidate may be named on each Nomination Paper. It is recommended that candidates file as far as possible in advance of the deadline so that any deficiency in the papers may be found and cleared in time to qualify.

The first step you should take in completing your Nomination Paper is to decide if you will personally be the circulator or if someone else will circulate it for you. Remember, whoever circulates the petition must personally witness each person's signature. Also remember, if you have someone else circulate the petition for you, they must be at least 18 years of age or older, and they must complete the Declaration of Circulator.

The second step is to obtain signatures. No less than 20 or more than 30 voters may sign a Nomination Paper. Please request voters to sign as registered. Registered voters may sign one Nomination Paper for each vacant seat. **Signatures must be from residents within the city limits of Ukiah only**; please be familiar with where the city boundaries fall (*these boundaries are shown on the City's website at:*

<https://cityofukiah.com/community-development/planning-services/>

Scroll down to the City of Ukiah – Interactive Zoning Map, and type in the address in the search field to see the colored boundaries; a map has also been included with your packet).

As can be seen on the Nomination Paper, the name of each registered voter nominating a candidate should be printed on the form. The voter should then sign the nomination paper and then print their voting residence, giving the street and number, if any, or some description of the residence as will enable the County Election Official to readily confirm the residence. Please be sure the name and the residence address of the person signing the Nomination Paper are printed clearly. Please, no ditto marks. The signatures have to be verified by the County Elections Official and if a name or address is not legible, verification may not be possible.

(See next section for completing last page of Nomination Paper.)

2. **AFFIDAVIT OF NOMINEE AND OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE**
Section 10223 - Elections Code

This section is contained on the bottom and back of the **Declaration of Candidacy**. It includes a declaration stating that the candidate will accept the nomination and the office in the event of their election, and an oath or affirmation of allegiance. In addition, the candidate may state their ballot designation. (Please see guidelines relating to “Ballot Designations,” below.) The **declaration and oath or affirmation of allegiance MUST BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE CITY CLERK AT THE TIME YOU FILE YOUR NOMINATION DOCUMENTS. DO NOT SIGN IT PRIOR TO THAT TIME.**

3. **FILING OF NOMINATION PAPER**
Section 10224 - Elections Code

Once all signatures have been obtained, the candidate must file the Nomination Paper with the City Clerk. Please note that nomination documents (Nomination Paper, Declaration of Candidacy, Candidate’s Statement, Candidate Intention Statement FPPC 501, Statement of Economic Interests FPPC 700, Voluntary Spending Limit Statement etc.) must be filed at the same time.

4. **FILING VOLUNTARY SPENDING LIMIT STATEMENT**
Section 2081- Ukiah City Code

Under Ukiah’s Campaign Reform Act, you must file a statement accepting or rejecting the Voluntary Spending Limit program established by that Act. You must complete, sign and file with the City Clerk one of the attached Voluntary Spending Limit Statements either accepting or rejecting the spending limit, at the same time that you file your Nomination Paper.

5. **BALLOT DESIGNATION**
Section 13107 - Elections Code

The Ballot Designation is the word, or group of **not more than three words**, which will appear on the ballot under the candidate’s name, designating the current principal profession, vocation, or occupation of the candidate. Only one of the following designations may appear:

- No more than three words designating the current principal profession(s), vocation(s), or occupation(s) of the candidate or the principal profession(s), vocation(s) or occupation(s) during the calendar year immediately preceding the filing of nomination documents. For purposes of this section, all California geographical names shall be considered to be one word.
- Words designating the elective city, county, district, state, or federal office which the candidate holds at the time of filing the nomination documents to which they were elected by vote of the people, or to which they were appointed if the office held is that of a superior, municipal, or justice court judge.

- The word “incumbent” may be used if the candidate is presently a member of the Ukiah City Council and was elected to that office by a vote of the people; or “appointed incumbent” if the candidate holds an office by virtue of appointment, and the candidate is a candidate for election of the same office.
- More than one occupation may be designated. Voluntary positions may be acceptable as occupational designations if performed on a regular basis.
- If a candidate desires no occupation to appear on the ballot, he or she must enter the word “none” in the appropriate space on the Affidavit of Nominee.
- An occupational designation may not be changed after the deadline for filing nomination papers except as specifically requested by the City Clerk.

The City Clerk shall not accept a Ballot Designation which:

- Misleads the voter.
- Suggests an evaluation of a candidate, such as outstanding, leading, expert, virtuous, or eminent.
- Abbreviates the word “retired” or places it following any word which it modifies.
- Uses a word or prefix, such as “former” or “ex”, which means a prior status. The only exception is the use of the word retired.
- Uses the name of any political party, whether or not it has qualified for the ballot.
- Uses a word(s) referring to a racial, religious, or ethnic group.
- Refers to any activity that is prohibited by law.

If, on checking the Nomination Paper, the City Clerk, as the Elections Official, finds the designation to be in violation of any restrictions set forth in Section 13107 of the Elections Code, she shall notify the candidate by registered mail, return receipt requested. The candidate shall, within three days from the date of receipt of the notice, appear before the City Clerk/Elections Official and provide an alternate designation. In the event the candidate fails to provide an alternate designation, no designation shall appear after the candidate’s name.

No designation given by a candidate shall be changed by the candidate after the final date for filing the Nomination Paper except as specifically requested by the City Clerk/Elections Official under the circumstances previously set forth.

6. **CANDIDATE’S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**
Section 13307 - Elections Code

Each candidate may file a **Candidate’s Statement of Qualifications** of no more than 200 words on a form provided by the City Clerk. The Statement will be printed in the

Voter's Pamphlet and distributed to all registered voters with the sample ballot prior to the election. Statements must be filed at the same time the Nomination Papers are filed. **This Statement may be withdrawn, but not changed, on or before 5:00 p.m. on the next working day after the close of the nomination period.**

See County's enclosed *Candidate Information Packet* companion document, pages 7-10 for more detail, and the **Candidate's Statement** form.

COSTS OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The deposit due for printing and distributing a Candidate's Statement in English is \$300. If the candidate chooses to have the Statement printed and distributed in both English and Spanish, the deposit due is \$400. A check deposit of \$300 or \$400 – made out to "City of Ukiah" is to be paid at the time the Statement is filed with the City Clerk. If the costs are less than the deposit, a refund will be made when the actual costs are ascertained. If the costs are more than the deposit an invoice will be sent to you for the balance.

If the candidate lacks sufficient funds to pay the cost, they may appeal for indigent status (*requires same documentation as would be supplied to establish low-income status for other government subsidies – i.e. bank statements*) and sign a declaration provided by the City Clerk to that effect and the statement will be printed and distributed. The candidate will then be placed on a payment plan to reimburse the cost.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATEMENTS

Elections Code Section 13311 makes the Candidate's Statement confidential until the close of nominations. The purpose of confidentiality is to prevent candidates from writing what amounts to a rebuttal. The City Clerk will not release the statement to the media until the expiration of the filing deadline.

7. POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974: FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC) FILING REQUIREMENTS

The FPPC mandates the filing requirements for candidates. Appropriate information manuals, addendums, and forms will be provided to each candidate. Copies of the Political Reform Act, manuals, forms, and other helpful information may be obtained by contacting the FPPC at 1-866-275-3772 (toll free) or 1-916-322-5660. This information may also be viewed on the FPPC Internet web site: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov>.

Please find on the following two pages the candidate filing schedule. **It is your responsibility to become familiar with the filing requirements and request forms from this office as you need them. You will be fined by this office and/or the Secretary of State's office if filing deadlines are not met.** Please note that once filed, all of the following statements/forms become public records. Please also note that there is a third Pre-election campaign statement requirement by the City of Ukiah that is not on the FPPC's filing schedule. (*See next page – full Filing Schedule is also included in the packet and can be found on the FPPC's website at:*

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/campaign-rules/where-and-when-to-file-campaign-statements/when-to-file-campaign-statements-state-local-filing-schedules.html>)

Deadline	Period	Form	Notes
Jul 31, 2026 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	* – 6/30/26	460	All committees must file this statement.
Within 24 Hours <i>Election Cycle Reports</i>	8/5/26 – 11/3/26	497	- File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is received from a single source. - File if a contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate is made to or in connection with <i>another</i> candidate or measure listed on the November 3, 2026, ballot. - The recipient of a non-monetary contribution of \$1,000 or more in the aggregate must file a Form 497 within 48 hours of receiving the contribution. - File by personal delivery, e-mail, guaranteed overnight service, or fax. The committee may also file online if available.
Sep 24, 2026 <i>1st Pre-Election</i>	7/1/26 – 9/19/26	460 or 470	Each candidate listed on the ballot must file Form 460 or Form 470 (see below).
Oct 22, 2026 <i>2nd Pre-Election</i>	9/20/26 – 10/17/26	460	- All committees must file this statement. - File by personal delivery or guaranteed overnight service. The committee may also file online if available.
Feb 1, 2027 <i>Semi-Annual</i>	10/18/26 – 12/31/26	460	- All committees must file Form 460 unless the committee filed termination Forms 410 and 460 before December 31, 2026. - The January 31 deadline falls on a Sunday, so the deadline is extended to the next business day.

- STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS (FORM 700)**

Each candidate is required to file a **Statement of Economic Interests** form (Form 700). The Form 700 must be filed by the close of the Nomination Period. Please carefully read the manuals and forms that you are provided. Candidates for office need only disclose investments and interests in real property held on the date at which time this form is completed/filed. If you need assistance with the form, you may call the **FPPC at 1-866-275-3772**.

Special Note: Candidates for the office of City Council are required by state law to file the Form 700 using the State Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) online filing portal – **HARD COPY FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. Candidates for these offices will receive filing access credentials directly from the FPPC.

- CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS**

Candidate Intention Statement (Form 501)

This form is required for all candidates, including incumbents. It must be filed with the City Clerk prior to solicitation or receipt of any contribution, including personal funds.

Statement of Organization/Recipient Committee (Form 410)

See County's *Candidate Information Packet* companion enclosure, "Campaign Disclosure". File this form with the Secretary of State within 10 days of receiving \$2,000 in contributions. Include a \$50 payment made payable to the Secretary of State. Thereafter, the \$50 fee is due annually no later than January 15. In addition to the \$50 fee, a penalty of \$150 may be assessed if payment is late. For early submissions, mark the "not yet qualified" box. The \$50 fee is requested at this time but is not legally required until the committee qualification threshold has been met. The committee's FPPC ID number will be posted at cal-access.sos.ca.gov. Read instructions carefully as a Form 410 will be rejected if all applicable sections are not completed. All committees must disclose the financial institution and bank account number used by the committee.

Campaign forms are available in the City Clerk's office upon request, and from the FPPC website: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/forms.html>.

8. **UKIAH CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT**

Ukiah City Code Sections 2075-2087, (Ordinance No. 1080) copy enclosed. You are encouraged to read the Ukiah Campaign Reform Act

In addition to the requirements of the State Political Reform Act, the Ukiah Campaign Reform Act imposes the following requirements:

- a. Except for Voluntary Spending Limit candidates and committees, contributions from a single donor are limited to \$500 in any Election Cycle (January 1 – December 31 of each given year).
- b. By no later than 1:00 p.m. on the third business day preceding election day, each candidate and committee must file with the City Clerk a third pre-election disclosure statement (FPPC Form 460) covering the period from the end of the second pre-election statement and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the fourth business day preceding election day.
- c. Each candidate and city committee must file an additional late contributions report with the City Clerk which reports all contributions of \$500.00 or more received from any source during the period commencing at the end of the period covered in the third pre-election disclosure statement and ending on midnight of the date of the election. This report shall be filed with the City Clerk within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the contribution and shall be posted to the City website within four hours of the filing or as soon thereafter as may be practicable.
- d. Anonymous contributions of more than \$20 are prohibited and must be returned or donated to the City or a charitable organization within 14 days of their receipt.
- e. Except for Voluntary Spending Limit candidates and committees, any campaign surplus must be disbursed to the City or a charitable organization within 3 days after the end of the Election Cycle.

POLITICAL SIGNS

1. **CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL SIGNS (City of Ukiah Code – Section 3224(C))**

- a. Political signs do not require a permit if placed on private property not exceeding four square feet in area or four feet in height, and if placed no sooner than sixty days before the election and removed within ten days after the election.
- b. Signs that do not satisfy the above requirements require a permit.

The Sign Ordinance is included in this packet. Please call 463-6219 for additional information regarding the City's sign code and permit requirements.

2. **STATE LAW GOVERNING CAMPAIGN SIGNS**

The State law has requirements which govern campaign signage. You are responsible to know the laws and can find more information at this website:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda/political-signs>. Following is a summary:

Section 5405.3 of the State Outdoor Advertising Act exempts the placing of Temporary Political Signs from normal outdoor advertising display requirements.

A Temporary Political Sign meets the following criteria:

1. Encourages a particular vote in a scheduled election.
2. Is placed not sooner than 60 days (*Caltrans and the County packet says 90 days, but the City Code Section 3224 takes precedence*) prior to the scheduled election and is removed within 10 days after that election.
3. Is no larger than four (4) square feet or four (4') feet in height (*Caltrans and the County packet says 32 square feet, but the city code Section 3224 takes precedence*).
4. Has had a Statement of Responsibility filed with the California Department of Transportation, certifying a person who will be responsible for removing the sign.

A completed Statement of Responsibility is included in the County Packet and must be submitted to:

Division of Traffic Operations
Outdoor Advertising Program
P.O. Box 942874, MS-36
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

5. Temporary Political Signs shall not be placed within the right-of-way of any highway, or within 660 feet of the edge of and visible from the right-of-way of a classified "Landscaped freeway."
6. State law directs the Department of Transportation to remove unauthorized Temporary Political Signs and bill the responsible party for their removal.

3. **UTILITY POLES**

Signs are not permitted on City of Ukiah utility poles.

CITY OF UKIAH CALENDAR FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, ELECTION

DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION	OFFICIAL DATE	COUNCIL MEETING DATE / OR NEXT BUSINESS DAY	ACTION TAKEN	CODE SECTION
180	May 7, 2026		Suggested Last Day to file initiative petitions	EC § 9208
141	June 15, 2026	June 3, 2026	Suggested last day for Council to adopt resolutions to allow time for any changes that may/may not have to go back to Council. (including call for election and measures; however, official last day is August 7th to submit the request to the Board of Supervisors for consolidation of services with County and Ballot Measures. County Election Official has expressed a preference to receive resolutions and measures by July 30th; also pay attention to when the Supervisors' meetings are actually scheduled)	Clerk and County Registrar Reference: Deadline per EC §10403 is August 7th
*Unofficial Date	June 22, 2026	June 17, 2026; or July 1, 2026	Unofficial Deadline to Deliver Resolution to Board of Supervisors and Copied to County Election Official Calling for Election to be Consolidated with County; BOS has no scheduled meetings for August; items must be submitted by 6:22 for the 7/7 BOS meeting, or by 7/6 for the 7/21 BOS meeting.	County Registrar
138	June 18, 2026	June 17, 2026 June 3 + 15 days = June 18	Suggested last day to post notice of Deadline for filing arguments and impartial analyses Call for Election + 15 days (if call is on 6/3/26)	County Registrar
127	June 29, 2026	June 30, 2026 earliest date due to UDJ publishing dates	Time Period for Election Official to publish Notice of Election (check Ukiah Daily Journal deadlines to comply with this timeline)	EC §12101
113	July 13, 2026		Last day to file rebuttal arguments/10 days after arguments 10 days after arguments are due (if election is called on June 3, and arguments are filed on June 17, then 10 days = June 27)	County Registrar
Fixed Date	July 31, 2026		Semi Annual Campaign Statements due (1/1/26-6/30/26)	GC §81000-81015
113	July 13, 2026		FILING PERIOD - CANDIDATE NOMINATION PAPERS	EC §10220; 10224; 10407
88	August 7, 2026		(papers to be turned in anytime between July 13 and August 7) Post Notice of Offices and Nominations to website (three days before filing period deadline)	EC §10224.5
91	August 4, 2026			
88	August 7, 2026	June 17, 2026; or July 1, 2026	Official Deadline to Deliver Resolution to Board of Supervisors and Copied to County Election Official Calling for Election to be Consolidated with County; BOS has no scheduled meetings for August; items must be submitted by 6:22 for the 7/7 BOS meeting, or by 7/6 for the 7/21 BOS meeting.	EC §10403; 10002, 12001, 1405, 9241; 9400-9401
88	August 7, 2026		First day that campaign signs may be erected.	UCC §3224
87	August 8, 2026		Candidate filing period extended if an incumbent eligible for re-election does not file nomination documents by the August 7 deadline. Incumbents are not eligible to file during the extended period. EC 10225	EC §10225
83	August 12, 2026		Secretary of State to conduct Random Alpha Draw for candidate name order on ballot	EC §13113; 13112
82	August 13, 2026			County date - not yet sent
5 days of the close of Candidate filing	August 12, 2026		Last day to cancel election - insufficient candidates	
57	September 7, 2026		Filing Period - Candidate Nomination Papers for Write-in Candidates.	EC §8601
14	October 20, 2026			GC §81000-81015
40	September 24, 2026		First Pre-Election Campaign Statement due	EC §3001
29	October 5, 2026		Period to obtain Vote-by-Mail ballots. Ballots may be obtained at the County Registrar's office	EC §2102; 2107
7	October 27, 2026		Last Day to Register to Vote	GC §81000-81015
15	October 19, 2026		Second Pre-Election Campaign Statement due	UCC §2082
12	October 22, 2026		Third Pre-Election Campaign Statement due	
3rd Business Day before 1:00 pm	October 29, 2026			
0	November 3, 2026		ELECTION DAY	EC §1000
10	November 13, 2026		Deadline for political signs to be removed	UCC §3224.C
30	December 3, 2026		Last day for County to certify election results to city. EC §15372	EC §15372
35	December 8, 2026	December 16, 2026	Council to adopt and certify election results (* County is not required to give election results until 12/3/26; therefore, unless the County produces election results before the 1st, the results will have to be certified on 12/16/26)	EC §10263-10265
Fixed Date	December 16, 2026	December 16, 2026	Taking office date for newly elected officials	
Fixed Date	January 15, 2027		Filing of Statement of Economic Interest - assuming office 30 days after assuming office (1/15/27 if election results are given at the 12/16/26 meeting)	GC §87314
Fixed Date	January 15, 2027		\$50 fee due to Secretary of State for open campaign committees	
Fixed Date	February 1, 2027		Semi-Annual Campaign Statement due.	
			GC = Government Code	
			UCC = Ukiah City Code	
			EC = Election Code	