

## **Filing Information for the California Special Election in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**

California has scheduled a special general election on June 2, 2026, to fill the U.S. House of Representatives seat in the 1st Congressional District of the late Representative Doug LaMalfa. Under California law, a majority winner in a special general election is declared elected. Should no candidate achieve a majority vote, a special runoff election will be held on August 4, 2026, between the top two vote-getters.

The Commission currently lacks the bipartisan representation needed to set reporting deadlines for these elections. However, under FEC regulations, political committees participating in the California special elections are required to file pre- and post-election reports. This document outlines those requirements, but committees are encouraged to contact the FEC Information Division or their assigned Campaign Finance Analyst in the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) for detailed filing information. Call 1-800-424-9530 and select option 5 (RAD) or option 6 (Information).

### **Principal Campaign Committees**

Regulations provide that all principal campaign committees of candidates who participate in both the Special General Election and Special Runoff Election shall file a 12-Day Pre-Special General Report; a 12-Day Pre-Special Runoff Report; and a 30-Day Post-Special Runoff Report. (See charts below.)

If both elections are held, all principal campaign committees of candidates who participate only in the Special General Election shall file a 12-Day Pre-Special General Report. (See charts below.)

If only one election is held, all principal campaign committees of candidates in the Special General Election shall file a 12-Day Pre-Special General Report; and a 30-Day Post-Special General Report. (See charts below.)

### **Unauthorized Committees (PACs and Party Committees)**

Regulations provide that political committees not filing monthly are subject to special election reporting if they make previously undisclosed contributions or expenditures in connection with a special general or special runoff election, if necessary, by the close of books for the applicable report(s). (See charts below.)

Regulations provide that committees filing monthly that make contributions or expenditures in connection with a special general or special runoff election, if necessary, will continue to file according to the monthly reporting schedule.

### **Disclosure of Lobbyist Bundling Activity**

Regulations provide that principal campaign committees, party committees and leadership PACs that are otherwise required to file reports in connection with the special elections must

simultaneously file FEC Form 3L if they receive two or more bundled contributions from lobbyists/registrants or lobbyist/registrant PACs that aggregate in excess of the lobbyist bundling threshold during the special election reporting periods. (See charts below.) 11 CFR 104.22(a)(5)(v), (b), 110.17(e)(2), (f).

The lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2025 was \$23,300. Generally, the Commission publishes notice of changes in lobbyist bundling disclosure thresholds in the Federal Register and posts it on its website. 11 CFR 104.22(g) and 110.17(e)(2).

### **Coordinated Communication Periods**

When a person pays for a communication that is coordinated with a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party committee or its agents, the communication is considered an in-kind contribution to that candidate or party committee and is subject to the limits, prohibitions and reporting requirements of the federal campaign finance law. FEC regulations establish a three-prong test to determine whether a communication is coordinated. All three prongs of the test—payment, content and conduct—must be met for a communication to be deemed coordinated and thus an in-kind contribution.

One provision identifies certain pre-election time frames during which a public communication that references a candidate will satisfy the content prong of the coordination test. Coordinated communications periods begin 90 days before an election and run through election day.

### **Electioneering Communication Periods**

Electioneering communications (EC) are television and radio communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate and are distributed to the relevant electorate within 60 days prior to a general election (including a special general) or 30 days prior to a primary, nominating convention or caucus (including a special primary). Individuals and other persons who make ECs that aggregate in excess of \$10,000 in the calendar year must file disclosure statements with the Commission within 24 hours of distribution to the public. During these periods, 24-hour disclosure of ECs is required, using Form 9.

Electioneering communication periods begin 60 days before a general election (including a special general election) and run through election day.

### **Federal Election Activity Periods**

According to FEC regulations concerning "Federal Election Activity" (FEA), political party committees that conduct FEA must pay for this activity with federally permissible funds or, in some cases, may allocate the costs between federal and Levin funds or pay for them entirely with federal funds.

For special elections, the regulations establish an FEA period for planned voter identification, get-out-the-vote (GOTV) and generic campaign activities. That period begins on the ballot access deadline for candidates running in the election and ends on the date of the special election.

## **24- and 48-Hour Independent Expenditure Reporting Periods**

Political committees and other persons who make independent expenditures (IEs) may have to disclose this activity within 24- or 48-hours based upon the date and amount of the expenditure.

Political committees and other persons who make independent expenditures that aggregate \$10,000 or more for a given election at any time during a calendar year—up to and including the 20th day before the election—must disclose this activity within 48 hours of the date that the communication is publicly distributed or otherwise publicly disseminated.

Any independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more (in the aggregate with respect to a given election) that is made after the 20th day, but more than 24 hours before the day of the election must be reported within 24 hours.

Political committees must use Form 3X, Schedule E to file 24- and 48-Hour Reports of Independent Expenditures. Persons who are not political committees must use Form 5.

## **48-Hour Notice Period for Last-Minute Contributions to Candidates**

Additional reporting requirements apply to candidate committees less than 20 days but more than 48 hours before the day of an election in which the candidate is running. For these reporting purposes, election day begins at 12:01 a.m.

During this time period, campaigns file a 48-Hour Notice (Form 6) anytime they receive a contribution of \$1,000 or more. This notice is due within 48 hours of receiving each qualifying contribution. Committees will also itemize these last-minute contributions in their next regular report.

## **CALENDAR OF REPORTING DATES FOR CALIFORNIA SPECIAL ELECTIONS<sup>1</sup>**

**IF ONLY THE SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION (06/02/2026) IS HELD,  
POLITICAL COMMITTEES INVOLVED MUST FILE:**

<b><u>REPORT</u></b>	<b><u>CLOSE OF BOOKS<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>REG./CERT. &amp; OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE</u></b>	<b><u>FILING DEADLINE</u></b>
Pre-General	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Post-General	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

**IF TWO ELECTIONS ARE HELD, POLITICAL COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN ONLY THE SPECIAL GENERAL (06/02/2026) MUST FILE:**

<b><u>REPORT</u></b>	<b><u>CLOSE OF BOOKS<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>REG./CERT. &amp; OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE</u></b>	<b><u>FILING DEADLINE</u></b>
Pre-General	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election

**IF TWO ELECTIONS ARE HELD, POLITICAL COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN THE SPECIAL GENERAL (06/02/2026) AND THE SPECIAL RUNOFF (08/04/2026) MUST FILE:**

<b><u>REPORT</u></b>	<b><u>CLOSE OF BOOKS<sup>2</sup></u></b>	<b><u>REG./CERT. &amp; OVERNIGHT MAILING DEADLINE</u></b>	<b><u>FILING DEADLINE</u></b>
Pre-General	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Pre-Runoff	20 days before election	15 days before election	12 days before election
Post-Runoff	20 days after election	30 days after election	30 days after election

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<sup>1</sup> The charts above only include reporting deadlines for the June 2, 2026, Special General Election and August 4, 2026, Special Runoff Election in California's 1st Congressional District. They do not include any additional reports committees may be required to file, including quarterly reports and the pre-election report for the June 2, 2026, primary election.

<sup>2</sup> The reporting period always begins the day after the closing date of the last report filed. If the committee is new and has not previously filed a report, the first report must cover all activity that occurred before the committee registered as a political committee up through the close of books for the first report due.