

December 11, 2025 – February 4, 2026 (E-173 – E-118)	Signatures-In-Lieu Circulation Period Petitions are available in our office to cover all or any pro-rata portion of the filing fee.
YEAR 2026	
January 10	Governor Issues Election Proclamation
January 26 – February 4 (E-127-E-118)	Declaration of Intent for Judicial Candidates Only (The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the Declaration of Intent is filed.)
February 5 – February 9 (E-117 – E-113)	Extension Period for Declaration of Intent (Judicial office only) Declaration of Intent filing is extended ONLY to non-incumbent if the incumbent does not file a Declaration of Intent by February 9, 2026.
February 9 – March 6 (E-113 – E-88)	Nomination Period All Filing Fees, Nomination Papers, Candidate Statement of Qualifications and Declaration of Candidacies are due at this time. (The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate obtains the nomination forms.)
March 6 – March 16 (E-88-E-78)	Petition Circulation Period to Place Judicial Contest on Ballot Petition can be circulated to place contest(s) on ballot to allow write-ins if only incumbent files. Must be signed by at least 1% of registered voters qualified to vote for the office and shall contain at least 100 signatures. Registration as of 6/16/25 is 10,852.
March 7 – March 11 (E-87 – E-83)	Nomination Extension Period Nomination Period extended ONLY to non-incumbent if the incumbent does not file Nomination Papers by March 11 2026.
March 12, 2026 (E-82) 11:00am	Random Alpha Randomized alphabet drawing done by the Secretary of State to determine the order of candidates on the ballot.
April 6 – May 19 (E-57 – E-14)	Write-in Period Nomination Petitions to become a qualified write-in candidate shall be filed during this period.
May 4	Vote by Mail Ballots Mailed
May 18 (E-15)	15 Day Close Standard voter registration deadline
June 2, 2026	Election Day
2026 HOLIDAYS OBSERVED December 25, 2025 Christmas, New Year's Day Observed, January 17th Martin Luther King Day, February 12th Lincoln Day, February 17st President's Day, March 31st Cesar Chavez Day, May 26th Memorial Day	

Colusa County Superior Court Judge

TERM OF OFFICE

The Superior Court Judges serve a 6–year term beginning at noon on January 4, 2027.

QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for Superior Court Judge shall:

- be a citizen of the United States;
- and be registered to vote; and qualified to vote for that office at the time nomination papers are issued (be a Colusa County resident)
- and have been a member of the State Bar for ten years immediately preceding the election;
- or have served as a judge of a California court of record for ten years immediately preceding the election

FILING REQUIREMENTS

CANDIDATE INTENTION STATEMENT (Form 501)

Each candidate for state or local office must file this form prior to solicitation or receipt of any contribution, loans, or expenditure of any personal funds used for the election. You must file a separate Form 501 for each election, including reelection to the same office. **Exception: This form is not required if you will not solicit or receive contributions from other persons and the only expenditures will be from your personal funds used for the filing fee and/or statement of qualifications in the ballot pamphlet.**

FILING FEE

The non-refundable filing fee is payable to the Registrar of Voters, and must be paid at the time the candidate obtains the nomination forms. The filing fee is:

- Superior Court Judge....TBD.....\$

SIGNATURES-IN-LIEU

A candidate may submit petitions containing signatures of registered voters, from the district in which the candidate is running, to cover all or any pro-rata portion, of the filing fee. A voter may sign both a candidate's nomination paper and his or her in-lieu-filing-fee petition. However, if signatures appearing on the documents are counted towards both the nomination paper and the in-lieu-filing-fee petition signature requirements, a person may only sign one of the documents. The Signature-In-Lieu petition may be obtained from the county elections official beginning December 11, 2025. The petitions must be filed with the county elections official no later than the close of business on February 4, 2026. If the number of signatures is insufficient, the candidate may submit the necessary number of valid signatures no later than February 4, 2026.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Each candidate must file a Declaration of Intent between January 26, 2026 and February 4, 2026 with the county elections official in the county in which the candidate resides. If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file by the close of business on February 4, 2026 any other person, if otherwise qualified, other than the incumbent, may file a Declaration of Intent no later than the close of business on February 9th, 2026. No candidate for a judicial office shall be required to state his or her residential address on the Declaration of Intent; however the address must be provided to the elections official for verification.

BALLOT DESIGNATION WORKSHEET Each candidate who submits a Ballot Designation shall file a Ballot Designation Worksheet that supports the use of that Ballot Designation by the candidate. The Ballot Designation Worksheet shall be filed with the elections official at the same time that the candidate files his/her Declaration of Candidacy. The Ballot Designation shall remain the same for all purposes of both primary and general elections, unless the candidate, at least 98 days prior to the general election, requests in writing a different designation which the candidate is entitled to use at the time of the request.

NOMINATION PETITIONS

Each candidate is required to file a Nomination Petition between February 9, 2026 and March 6, 2026, containing at least 20 and no more than 40 signatures of registered voters in the jurisdiction. Each section of the Nomination Petition shall be delivered to the county elections official, no later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. NOTE: Signatures-in-lieu which meet the nomination requirements may be so designated.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Each candidate is required to file a Declaration of Candidacy between February 9, 2026 and March 6, 2026. The Declaration of Candidacy shall be obtained from the office of the county elections official. The Declaration of Candidacy must be executed in the office of the elections official unless the candidate, in a written statement signed and dated by the candidate, designates a third party to obtain the Declaration of Candidacy from the county elections official and deliver it to the candidate. Such written statement shall state that the candidate is aware the Declaration of Candidacy must be properly executed and delivered to the county elections official from whom it was obtained no later than the close of business on March 6, 2026. If an incumbent, eligible to be elected, fails to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the close of business on March 6, 2026, any other person, if otherwise qualified, other than the incumbent, may file a Declaration of Candidacy no later than the close of business on March 11, 2026.

No candidate for a judicial office shall be required to state his or her residential address on the Declaration of Candidacy; however the address must be provided to the elections official for verification.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS–OPTIONAL

Each candidate for local office may submit a Statement of Qualifications to be printed in the Voter Information portion of the Voter Information Guide. Statements must be filed no later than the Declaration of Candidacy. Once filed, statements shall not be changed (except as specifically required by the elections official). The Statement of Qualifications may be withdrawn at the candidate's request no later than close of business of the next working day after the close of the nomination period. Statements of Qualifications are confidential until the close of the nomination period for that particular office and then become public documents.

See pages 18-20 for guidelines and fees associated with the candidate statement.

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS (Form 700) (Please refer to www.fppc.ca.gov)

Each candidate must file a Statement of Economic Interests at the time of filing his or her Declaration of Candidacy unless such a statement was filed within 60 days prior to the filing of a Declaration of Candidacy. (Please provide a copy to the Election Division at the time of filing.)

VOLUNTARY CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES–OPTIONAL

At the time an individual files his or her Declaration of Candidacy, Nomination Petition, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office, the county elections official shall give the individual a copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the provisions of Ch. 5, Div. 20 of the Elections Code.