

## Rules for Counting Words

The heading includes the candidate's name (required), age (optional), and occupation (optional). The words, however, do not count toward the number of words allowed for the statement. All statements will begin with the words: **“Education and Qualifications:”** followed by the text filed by the candidate.

The **“Occupation”** field in the candidate's statement is NOT governed by the same laws pertaining to the ballot designation; therefore, it may be different. However, if its length exceeds one line, the additional words will be counted towards the final word limit.

Pursuant to Division 0.5, §9 of the Elections Code, words will be counted as follows:

(a) Counting of words, for purposes of this code, shall be as follows:

- (1) Punctuation is not counted.
- (2) Each word shall be counted as one word except as specified in this section.
- (3) All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, “City and County of San Francisco” shall be counted as one word.
- (4) Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word.
- (5) Hyphenated words that appear in any generally available standard reference dictionary, published in the United States at any time within the 10 calendar years immediately preceding the election for which the words are counted, shall be considered as one word. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word. Examples: “mother-in-law”, “first-rate”, “one-time” will be counted as one word; “one-half,” “local-area,” and “home-page” will be counted as two words.
- (6) Dates shall be counted as one word.
- (7) Any number consisting of a digit or digits shall be considered as one word. Any number which is spelled, such as “one,” shall be considered as a separate word or words. “One” shall be counted as one word whereas “one hundred” shall be counted as two words. “100” shall be counted as one word.
- (8) Telephone numbers shall be counted as one word.
- (9) Internet Web site addresses shall be counted as one word.

(b) This section shall not apply to counting words for ballot designations under Section 13107.

### **Additionally:**

- Characters used in place of a word or number and that stand alone, such as “&”, “\$”, “%”, or “#” shall be counted as one word. [see (a)(4) above].

Examples: \$ (for “dollar”) = one word, # (for “number” or “pound”) = one word

- Characters used in conjunction with a number and necessary to combine, such as “\$100” or “100%” are not counted.

Examples: \$100 = one word, #voteforme = three words (# not counted)

- If the text exceeds the word or line limit, the author will be asked to rewrite the text in order to bring the total number of words within the required word or line limit.