

## Assembly Bill No. 362

### CHAPTER 214

An act to amend Sections 8203 and 8600 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

[Approved by Governor September 6, 2011. Filed with Secretary of State September 6, 2011.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 362, Bonnie Lowenthal. Elections: specified local offices: write-in candidate.

(1) Existing law prohibits an elections official, in any county in which only the incumbent has filed nomination papers for the office of superior court judge, to place the incumbent's name on the ballot unless, within 10 days after the final date for filing nomination papers for the office, a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by 100 registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office is filed with the elections official.

This bill would revise the signature requirement for that petition to 0.1% of the registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, provided that the petition contains at least 100 signatures but need not contain more than 600 signatures.

(2) Existing law requires every person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have his or her name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office to file a statement of write-in candidacy that contains specified information.

This bill would require that a statement of write-in candidacy for any of several specified local offices also include a statement that the candidate meets statutory and constitutional requirements for that office as described in a specified statute.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 8203 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

8203. (a) In any county in which only the incumbent has filed nomination papers for the office of superior court judge, his or her name shall not appear on the ballot unless there is filed with the elections official, within 10 days after the final date for filing nomination papers for the office, a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office and signed by at least 0.1 percent of the registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office, provided that the petition shall contain at least 100 signatures but need not contain more than 600 signatures.

(b) If a petition indicating that a write-in campaign will be conducted for the office at the general election, signed by the number of registered voters qualified to vote with respect to the office specified in subdivision (a), is filed with the elections official not less than 83 days before the general election, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the general election ballot if it has not appeared on the direct primary election ballot.

(c) If, in conformity with this section, the name of the incumbent does not appear either on the primary ballot or general election ballot, the elections official, on the day of the general election, shall declare the incumbent reelected. Certificates of election specified in Section 15401 or 15504 shall not be issued to a person reelected pursuant to this section before the day of the general election.

SEC. 2. Section 8600 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

8600. Every person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have his or her name as written on the ballot of an election counted for a particular office shall file:

(a) A statement of write-in candidacy that contains the following information:

- (1) Candidate's name.
- (2) Residence address.
- (3) A declaration stating that he or she is a write-in candidate.
- (4) The title of the office for which he or she is running.
- (5) The party nomination which he or she seeks, if running in a partisan primary election.
- (6) The date of the election.
- (7) For any of the offices described in Section 13.5, a statement that the candidate meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for that office as described in that section.

(b) The requisite number of signatures on the nomination papers, if any, required pursuant to Sections 8062, 10220, and 10510, or, in the case of a special district not subject to the Uniform District Election Law (Part 4 (commencing with Section 10500) of Division 10), the number of signatures required by the principal act of the district.