Candidate Rotation Information

Before an election, the California Secretary of State conducts a random drawing of letters of the alphabet. This randomized list is used for all candidates in the upcoming election to assure that all candidates have an equal opportunity to be the first name listed on the ballot in their respective office.

In Statewide and Countywide offices, the randomized alphabet list drawn by the Secretary of State determines the order of candidate names on all ballots, starting in Assembly District 1. The order is then rotated, so that in Assembly District 2 the candidate who appeared first in Assembly District 1 is moved to the bottom of the ballot list and the second candidate is moved up to be the first candidate on the ballot in Assembly District 2, and so on.

This rotation process continues throughout all of the 80 Assembly Districts in California and begins in Sacramento County with Assembly District 6. County Random Alphabet rotations are only used for Senate or Assembly districts that are in more than one County.

Rules for Candidate Rotations in Sacramento County:

Office	Rotation Rules
Statewide Offices	Candidate rotation by Assembly District and the rotation number is equal to the Assembly District number. State Random Alphabet is applied.
Congressional	Candidate rotation by the Assembly Districts that are within the Congressional district. Rotation Number is determined by the number of Assembly Districts. State Random Alphabet is applied.
Board of Equalization	Candidate rotation by the Assembly Districts that are within the Board of Equalization district. Rotation Number is determined by the Assembly Districts. State Random Alphabet is applied.
State Senate & Assembly	Candidates do not rotate. If the State Senate or Assembly District is in more than one county, the County Random Alphabet is applied. It the State Senate or Assembly District is wholly contained within the County, the State Random Alphabet is applied.
Countywide Offices	Sacramento County has **FIVE** Assembly Districts contained in the County, therefore, we rotate by Assembly District. The Rotation Number starts at 1 and increments in order of Assembly District number. State Random Alphabet is applied.
Offices not Countywide	Candidates do not rotate. State Random Alphabet is applied.