
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1853 (Pellerin) - Voter information guide: candidate statements

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: Yes

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Policy Vote: E. & C.A. 3 - 1, JUD. 11 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 1853 would (1) establish uniform content rules for what may be included in a candidate statement in a statewide or local voter information guide (VIG), and (2) establish how a noncompliant statement may be kept out of a VIG.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- This bill would not result in a fiscal impact to the Secretary of State (SOS).
- By imposing specified duties on local elections officials, this bill creates a state-mandated local program. To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs. The magnitude is unknown, but could exceed \$50,000 per year (General Fund).
- This bill could result in potentially significant cost pressures to the courts; the magnitude is unknown (Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)). The specific number of new actions that could be filed under the bill also is unknown; however, it generally costs about \$10,500 per day to operate a courtroom. Courts are not funded on the basis of workload, and increased pressure on TCTF may create a need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The enacted 2026-27 budget includes \$70 million in ongoing support from the General Fund to continue to backfill TCTF for revenue declines.

Author Amendments: Remove the urgency clause, make clarifying changes and require a candidate to submit a declaration with the candidate statement that attests that the statement is true and correct.

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