2026 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Candidate Filing Packet — City Council (Two Seats)

Thank you for your interest in serving your community as a Member of the Avenal City Council. This packet provides an overview of the filing process, key dates, and the documents you will need to submit. Please read it carefully and contact the City Clerk's office early if you have questions — our office is here to help guide you through the process.

Election Overview

- Election Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 (consolidated with the Statewide General Election)
- Offices Up for Election: Two (2) City Council seats, each for a full four-year term
- Election Type: At-Large (citywide) — Avenal does not use district-based Council elections
- Filing Officer: City Clerk / Deputy City Clerk, City of Avenal (Elections Official)
- The Kings County Registrar of Voters handles ballot printing, polling places, vote-by-mail processing, and the official canvass. All candidate filing paperwork, however, is filed directly with the City.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

- At least 18 years old on the date of the election
- A U.S. citizen
- A registered voter, and a resident, within the City of Avenal at the time nomination papers are issued
- Not otherwise disqualified from holding civil office under California law

Please confirm your voter registration status and residency with the Kings County Elections Department before beginning the filing process.

Step-by-Step Filing Process

Step 1 — File Candidate Intention Statement (FPPC Form 501)

Before you circulate nomination papers, solicit or accept any campaign contributions, or spend any money on your campaign, you must file FPPC Form 501 with the City Clerk. This form is short and simply declares your intent to run.

Step 2 — Pick Up Your Candidate's Nomination Packet

Nomination packets are issued by appointment at the City Clerk's office starting the first day of the nomination period. Your packet will include:

- Declaration of Candidacy
- Nomination Paper (signature petition)
- Ballot Designation Worksheet (how your occupation appears on the ballot)
- Candidate Statement of Qualifications form (optional — word limit and any fee to be confirmed with the City Clerk)
- Code of Fair Campaign Practices (voluntary)
- FPPC Form 700 — Statement of Economic Interests

- Oath of Office (for use if elected)

Step 3 — Collect Signatures

California Elections Code §10220 requires nomination papers to be signed by not fewer than 20 and not more than 30 registered voters of the City. Please confirm the exact number of signatures Avenal requires with the City Clerk before you begin collecting them.

Step 4 — Complete and Return Your Full Packet

Return your completed Declaration of Candidacy, signed Nomination Paper, Ballot Designation Worksheet, Form 700, and (if applicable) your Candidate Statement of Qualifications to the City Clerk's office before the filing deadline below. Staff will review your packet for completeness before accepting it for filing.

Step 5 — Ongoing Campaign Finance Filings

Once you have raised or spent $2,000 or more, you may be required to file FPPC Form 410 (Statement of Organization) and subsequent campaign disclosure statements (Form 460/470). Ask the City Clerk for the current campaign disclosure filing schedule.

Key Filing Dates — At a Glance

Date	Milestone	Notes
As soon as you decide to run	File FPPC Form 501	Required before circulating papers or raising/spending funds
Monday, July 13, 2026	Nomination period opens	Candidates may begin pulling papers
Friday, August 7, 2026 — 5:00 PM	Nomination period closes	Standard filing deadline (Elections Code §10220)
Wednesday, August 12, 2026	Extended deadline (if triggered)	Only applies if an eligible incumbent does not file by Aug. 7 (Elections Code §10225); extension is for non-incumbents only
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	Write-in candidate filing deadline	Declaration of Write-In Candidacy due no later than 14 days before the election (Elections Code §8603)
Tuesday, November 3, 2026	Election Day	Polls open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Note: Dates above reflect standard statutory timelines for a November General Election under the California Elections Code. Please confirm exact dates and any locally-adopted requirements (signature count, statement word limit, filing fees) with the City Clerk's office before relying on them.

Questions or Ready to Begin?

Contact the Avenal City Clerk's Office:

- Avenal City Hall, 919 Skyline Blvd., Avenal, CA 93204
- Phone: (559) 386-5766
- We recommend calling ahead to schedule an appointment to pick up your nomination packet.