Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins
79th Assembly District

AB 2573: Protecting Elected Officials and Candidates

SUMMARY

AB 2573 provides technical fixes to assist counties in keeping the personal information of candidates and elected officials confidential.

BACKGROUND

Under current law, individuals seeking elected office must file a Declaration of Candidacy to qualify for the ballot. This process requires candidates to provide identifying information, including residential addresses, which may become publicly accessible through voter registration records or election documents. Public disclosure of this information can place elected officials, candidates, and their households at risk, particularly in today's increasingly polarized political environment.

In 2025, AB 1392 extended the confidential voter registration program to eligible elected officials and candidates at the federal, state and local levels of government. As counties implemented the program, officials identified the need for greater clarity on eligibility, processing timelines, duration of confidentiality, and administrative procedures to ensure the program works consistently statewide.

AB 2573 resolves these implementation issues by:

- Confirming that both elected and appointed officials at the federal, state, and local levels are eligible for confidential voter status
- Allowing household immediate family members to be included in confidentiality requests
- Procedure for transferring confidential status when an official or candidate moves to a new county
- Timeline for how long confidential status lasts for candidates and for elected officials after leaving office
- Explaining how participation affects voting, including limits on in-person voting while ensuring secure alternatives such as provisional vote-by-mail drop-off
- Continues to provide journalists an exemption in confirming information

THIS BILL

AB 2573 standardizes confidential voter registration procedures across counties and clarifies eligibility requirements for candidates and elected officials.

This bill helps safeguard public servants from intimidation and threats while preserving secure access to the ballot.

SUPPORT

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