

SBOE NICKNAME GUIDE

No title, appendage, or appellation indicating rank, status, or position shall be printed on the official ballot in connection with a candidate’s name, though candidates may use the title Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Ms. Legitimate nicknames may be permitted on official ballots, but only if listed on the notice of candidacy. The nickname, which appears in parentheses on the ballot, may not mislead voters or unduly advertise the candidacy. If a candidate is providing an affidavit to permit the use of a nickname with his or her legal last name, the affidavit shall include the way the ballot shall list the candidate’s name (as permitted by law) in the event that another candidate with the same last name files for the same office.

The table below provides examples of what is and what is not acceptable for the candidate’s name on ballot if the candidate’s name is George Eugene Smith.

Candidate Name on Ballots		Candidate Name on Ballot Examples:	
		Allowed	Not Allowed
①	A candidate may use either first or middle name before the last name (no nickname affidavit necessary)	George Smith Eugene Smith	
②	A candidate may abbreviate using the first letter of either his first or middle name (but not last name) (no nickname affidavit necessary).	G. Smith G.E. Smith George E. Smith G. Eugene Smith	George S. G.E.S.
③	A candidate may choose to include a suffix (no nickname affidavit necessary)	George Smith George Smith, Jr. George Smith III	George Smith, Esq. George Smith, MD
④	The ONLY title allowed along with a name is Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.	Mr. George Smith	General George Smith Judge George Smith Hon. George Smith
⑤	If a nickname affidavit is completed, the nickname must either be used in place of the first or middle name, or following the first or middle name in parentheses. Nicknames that indicate rank, status, or position, are prohibited. Any shortening of a proper name as it appears in the voter record, other than abbreviation to the first letter, requires a nickname affidavit (such as “Dave” if the voter registration lists the first name as “David”)	George (Joey) Smith George E. (Joey) Smith George Eugene (Joey) Smith Eugene (Joey) Smith Joey Smith	George (Da Bomb) Smith George (Vote For Me) Smith George (The Judge) Smith George (Winner) Smith
⑥	Hyphenated surname as listed on the candidate’s voter registration record unless the candidate’s voter registration has been updated, his or her surname to appear on the ballot must match the voter registration record.	George Eugene-Smith (how candidate’s name appears on the voter registration record)	George Eugene Smith (not allowed unless voter registration has been updated)