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1. ASCII File Format

1.1. Overview

Although all pre-election and election night messages vary in content, some formatting characteristics remain consistent throughout all message files. The characteristics are:

- All messages start with an open bracket '[' and terminate with a closed bracket']'. (**Note**: This is a change from previous elections.)

- A vertical bar '|' separates fields within all messages.

- A carriage return and line feed indicate the end of a record.

- Leading zeros '0' are suppressed on numeric fields.

- A single zero '0' represents a numeric field that contains a zero value.

- A single blank character ' ' represents an alphanumeric field that contains no data.

- All messages begin with the following three data fields:

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Message Type	1	Alpha	Identifies the type of message **Message** **Description** B Beginning of a message set E End of a message set A County reporting status C Candidate information P Precinct numbers by county R Contest codes and descriptions S County codes and names V Voting results
File Source	3	Alpha	Identifies the **CA**lifornia **S**ecretary of State's office as the source of the file • The value will always be '**CAS**'.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Sequence Number	Variable 1-4	Numeric	Sequential number assigned to each record • The sequence number for the first record in the file will always be '1'. • The sequence number is incremented by 1 for each subsequent message. • To ensure all messages are received correctly, the sequence numbers in each message file should be checked.

1.2. File Name and Size

The file name for the ASCII file is MyyEE.txt where:

M   Message Type

Value	Description
C	Candidate message
P	Precinct message
R	Contest message
S	County codes message
V	Voting results message

yy   Election Year

EE   Election Type

Value	Description
PP	Presidential Primary
PG	Presidential General
DP	Direct Primary
GP	Gubernatorial Primary
GG	Gubernatorial General
SS	Statewide Special

The file names are case sensitive. The file names for the 2024 Primary Election are listed in the table below:

Message Type	Presidential General
C	C24PP.txt
P	P24PP.txt
R	R24PP.txt
S	S24PP.txt
V	V24PP.txt

1.3. Election Night Results

The data files created during the semi-official canvass include the 'A' messages (county reporting status) and the 'V' messages (voting results) in **one** file. The set of 'A' messages will appear in the file first, followed by the set of 'V' messages. The file includes the following messages:

Message	Description
B	Beginning of 'A' messages
A	County status
E	End of 'A' messages
B	Beginning of 'V' messages
V	Election results
E	End of 'V' messages

1.4. Message Description

Descriptions of the first three fields in each message file (Message Type Indicator, 'CAS', and Sequence Number) are noted previously in this document, and therefore are omitted from each of the following descriptions.

1.4.1. 'B' - Begin Messages

The 'B' message indicates the beginning of a new set of messages.

<u>Sample</u>

[B|CAS|1|20240215|2119040]

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Date	8	Numeric	Date the message was created - YYYYMMDD
Time	7	Numeric	Time the message was created - HHMMSST

1.4.2. 'E' - End Messages

The 'E' message indicates the end of a set of messages.

Sample

[E|CAS|61|20240215|2120140]

[E |	CAS	| SEQ NBR	| Date YYYYMMDD	| Time HHMMSST	]
	3 bytes	1 to 4 bytes	8 bytes	7 bytes	

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Date	8	Numeric	Date the message was created - YYYYMMDD
Time	7	Numeric	Time the message was created - HHMMSST

1.4.3. 'A' - County Reporting Status Messages

The 'A' message provides the county reporting status for the semi-official canvass.

File Structure

Message	Description
B	Beginning of message set
A	County status
E	End of message set

Sample File

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1331130]
[A|CAS|2|01|R|0|0|795|1004|79.2|571897|744707|76.8|201204191324|201204191324]
…
…
[A|CAS|60|59|R|0|0|18388|22249|82.6|13658159|17028290|80.2|201204191324|201204191329]
[E|CAS|61|20240215|1334460]

[A	CAS	SEQ NBR	County Code	Report Type	Report Number	Correction Report Number	Precincts Reporting	Total Precincts	Precincts Reporting Percentage	Voter Turnout	Total Registered Voters	Voter Turnout Percentage	First Report Timestamp	Last Report Timestamp]
	3 bytes	1 to 2 bytes	1 to 2 bytes	0 to 1 byte	1 byte	1 byte	0 to 6 bytes	1 to 6 bytes	0 to 5 bytes	0 to 8 bytes	1 to 8 bytes	0 to 5 bytes	0 to 12 bytes	0 to 12 bytes

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
County Code	2	Alphanumeric	Identifies the county • The counties are numbered in ascending sequential order proceeding alphabetically. • County 59 identifies a record that contains statewide information.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description

Report Type	Variable 0-1	Alphanumeric	Type of report submitted
			• Null – No Report
			  No report has been received by the county or all previous reports were removed by the county due to corrective action.
			
			• R – Election Night Report
			  Reporting will continue until all precincts in the county have reported their Election Night Reports. More reports are to be expected on Election Night.
			
			• F – Semi-Final Election Night Report
			  All precincts in the county have reported their Election Night results. County elections officials will continue counting ballots (vote-by-mail, provisional, etc.) during the 30-day post-election canvass period. These results are Semi-Final until the Secretary of State certifies the results of all state contests on April 12, 2024.
			
			• U – Update Report
			  The county provided an update since the Semi-Final Election Night Report. Returns are updated as county elections officials process vote-by-mail, provisional, and other ballots during the 30-day post-election canvass period.

Report Number	1	Numeric	Defaults to zero.
Correction Report Number	1	Numeric	Defaults to zero.
Precincts Reporting	Variable 0-6	Numeric	Number of precincts reporting • If zero, the field is null.
Total Precincts	Variable 1-6	Numeric	Total number of precincts for the contest • The Total Precincts is subject to change if a county needs to adjust the total precinct counts prior to submitting the Final Report.
Precincts Reporting Percentage	Variable 0-5	Numeric	Percentage of precincts reported • If zero, the field is null. • The number will never be 100% until the county submits the Final Report.
Voter Turnout	Variable 0-8	Numeric	Number of ballots cast • If zero, the field is null.
Total Registered Voters	Variable 1-8	Numeric	Number of registered voters • The field will contain test data until the 15-day close of voter registration.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Voter Turnout Percentage	Variable 0-5	Numeric	Percentage derived by dividing voter turnout by total registered voters • The field is null until a county submits a report. • The display is one-tenth of a percent, but the decimal point is present only when the tenth of a percent digit is **not** zero.
First Report Timestamp	Variable 0-12	Numeric	Time the county submitted the earliest report. **Note:** This field has changed to include the Year and is now twelve bytes instead of eight. Timestamp Format YYYYMMDDhhmm, where: YYYY Is a four-digit number that represents the year when the report was submitted. MM Is a two-digit number, ranging from 01 to 12, that represents the month when the report was submitted. DD Is a two-digit number, ranging from 01 to 31, that represents the day of the month when the report was submitted. hh Is a two-digit number, ranging from 00 to 23, that represents the hour when the report was submitted. mm Is a two digit-number, ranging from 00 to 59, that represents the minute. For the county 59 record, the field contains the timestamp of the first county to report.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Last Report Timestamp	Variable 0-12	Numeric	Time the county submitted the latest report **Note:** This field has changed to include the Year and is now twelve bytes instead of eight. Timestamp Format YYYYMMDDhhmm, where: YYYY Is a four-digit number, that represents the year when the report was submitted. MM Is a two-digit number, ranging from 01 to 12, that represents the month when the report was submitted. DD Is a two-digit number, ranging from 01 to 31, that represents the day of the month when the report was submitted. hh Is a two-digit number, ranging from 00 to 23, that represents the hour when the report was submitted. mm Is a two digit-number, ranging from 00 to 59, that represents the minute. If the county has not submitted a report, the field is null. For the county 59 record, the field contains the timestamp of the latest county to report.

1.4.4. 'V' - Vote Messages

The 'V' message provides the election results.

> Candidate names within a specific contest may not be presented in the same order as found in 'C' messages. Results are presented in numerical county sequence with county 59 representing statewide results as the **first** set of results for each contest.
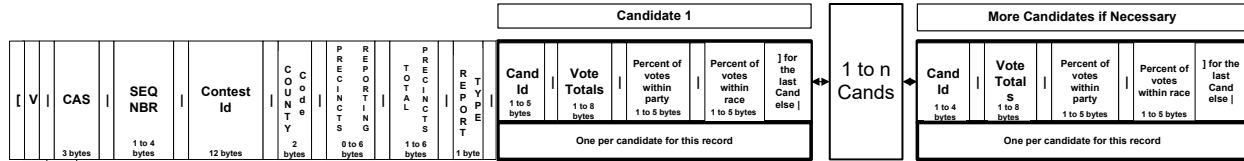
File Structure

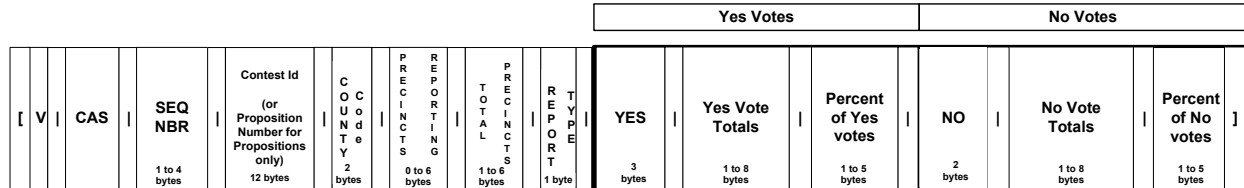| Message	Description
B	Beginning of message file
V	Election results
E	End of message file

Sample File

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1331130]
[V|CAS|2|020000000000|59|18388|22249|R|181|3567502|27.1|26.1|182|6517954|49.4|
47.7|183|1637195|12.4|12.0]
…
…
[V|CAS|119|190000000029|58|38|46|R|YES|4081|18.0|NO|18592|82.0]
[E|CAS|120|20240215|1334460]

For a candidate contest:

For a ballot measure contest:

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Contest Id	12	Alphanumeric	Identifies the type of contest
County Code	Variable 1-2	Alphanumeric	Identifies the county - The counties are numbered in ascending sequential order proceeding alphabetically. - County 59 identifies a record contains statewide information.
Precincts Reporting	Variable 1-6	Numeric	Number of precincts reporting
Total Precincts	Variable 1-6	Numeric	Total number of precincts in this contest The total number of precincts is subject to change if a county needs to adjust the total precinct counts prior to submitting the Final Report.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Report Type	1	Alphanumeric	Type of report submitted • Null – No Report No report has been received by the county or all previous reports were removed by the county due to corrective action. • R – Election Night Report Reporting will continue until all precincts in the county have reported their Election Night Reports. More reports are to be expected on Election Night. • F – Semi-Final Election Night Report All precincts in the county have reported their Election Night results. County elections officials will continue counting ballots (vote-by-mail, provisional, etc.) during the 30-day post-election canvass period. These results are Semi-Final until the Secretary of State certifies the results of all state contests. • U – Update Report The county provided an update since the Semi-Final Election Night Report. Returns are updated as county elections officials process vote-by-mail, provisional, and other ballots during the 30-day post-election canvass period.
Candidate Id	Variable 1-5	Alphanumeric	Uniquely identifies the candidate • Assigned by the Secretary of State's office. • There is **no** maximum number of candidate Id's per message record.
Votes	Variable 1-8	Numeric	Number of votes for the candidate OR Number of yes/no votes
Percent within Party	Variable 1-5	Numeric	Candidate's percentage of votes within his/her respective party • The display is one-tenth of a percent, but the decimal point is present only when the tenth of a percent digit is **not** zero. • Leading zeros are suppressed. • Zero percent displays as 0. • The sum of the percent by party for **all** candidates in a multiple-party contest can and will exceed 100.0%.

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Percent within Contest	Variable 1-5	Numeric	Candidate's percentage of votes within his/her respective party • The display is one-tenth of a percent, but the decimal point is present only when the tenth of a percent digit is **not** zero. • Leading zeros are suppressed. • Zero percent displays as 0. • The sum of percentages for **all** candidates in a contest will always total 100.0%.

1.4.5. 'C' - Candidate Messages

The 'C' message links candidates with a particular contest or contests. In the rare case where a candidate is running in more than one contest monitored by the Secretary of State's office, the candidate will receive a unique Candidate Id for each qualified contest.

File Structure

Message	Description
B	Beginning of message file
C	Candidate
E	End of message file

Sample File

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1018510]
[C|CAS|2|020000000000|181||Fernald|Colleen|Shea|01|Colleen Shea Fernald]
…
…
[C|CAS|101|190000000029|||Cigarette Tax||||Cigarette Tax]
[E|CAS|102|20240215|1355490]

[	C		CAS		SEQ NBR		Contest Id		Cand Id		INCUMBENT	Last Name Or Ballot Measure Name		First Name		Middle Name		Party Code		Candidate Name as it Appears on the Ballot	]
			3 bytes		1 to 4 bytes		12 bytes		1 to 5 bytes			1 to 50 bytes		1 to 25 bytes		1 to 25 bytes		2 bytes		1 to 50 bytes	

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Contest Id	12	Alphanumeric	Identifies the type of contest
Candidate Id	Variable 1-5	Alphanumeric	Uniquely identifies the candidate • Assigned by the Secretary of State's office. • The number is unique to the candidate and the contest in which the candidate is running. • For ballot measure contests, the field is null.
Incumbent Indicator	1	Alphanumeric	Identifies the candidate as the current officeholder seeking re-election • If the candidate is the current officeholder, the value is a single asterisk character (*). • If the candidate is not the incumbent, the value is null.
Last Name	Variable 1-50	Alphanumeric	Last name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot
First Name	Variable 1-25	Alphanumeric	First name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot
Middle Name	Variable 1-25	Alphanumeric	Middle name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot
Party Code	2	Alphanumeric	Candidate's party affiliation **Value** **Description** Blank Not Applicable 00 Not a Party Contest 01 Democratic Party 02 Republican Party 03 American Independent Party 04 Green Party 05 Libertarian Party 08 Peace and Freedom Party 13 Nonpartisan 14 No Party Preference 15 Blank
Candidate Name as it Appears on the Ballot	Variable 1-50	Alphanumeric	The full name of the candidate as it will appear on the ballot

1.4.6. 'P' - Precinct Messages

The 'P' message provides the number of precincts for each county.

The number of precincts for each county is not available until after the 15-day close of voter registration. For the 2024 Primary Election, the 15-day close of voter registration is Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

This file will contain test data until the actual precinct counts are received from all counties. Whenever a county changes the precinct count, media clients will be notified by the Secretary of State's office.

File Structure

Message	Description
B	Beginning of message file
P	Precinct
E	End of message file

Sample File

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1018510]
[P|CAS|2|020000000000|59|30615]

…

…

[P|CAS|119|190000000029|58|46]
[E|CAS|120|20240215|1355540]

[	P			CAS			SEQ NBR			Contest Id			County Code			Total Precincts		]
				3 bytes			1 to 4 bytes			12 bytes			2 bytes			1 to 6 bytes		

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Contest Id	12	Alphanumeric	Identifies the type of contest
County Code	2	Alphanumeric	Identifies the county • The counties are numbered in ascending sequential order proceeding alphabetically. • County 59 indicates the record contains statewide information.
Total Precincts	Variable 1-6	Alphanumeric	Total number of precincts for the contest The total number of precincts is subject to change if a county needs to adjust the total precincts count prior to submitting the Final Report.

1.4.7. 'R' - Contest Messages

The 'R' message provides the contest identifiers and the description.

File Structure

Message	Description
B	Beginning of message file
R	Contest description
E	End of message file

Sample file

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1018510]
[R|CAS|2|020000000000|Governor|GP]
…
…
[R|CAS|39|110000010000|United States Representative District 1|GP]
[E|CAS|40|20240215|1355570]

[	R			CAS			SEQ NBR			Contest Id			Contest Description			Election Type		]
				3 bytes			1 to 3 bytes			12 bytes			1 to 40 bytes			2 bytes		

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
Contest Id	12	Alphanumeric	Identifies the type of contest
Contest Description	Variable 1-40	Alphanumeric	Name of the office, ballot measure (short description) or judgeship confirmation
Election Type	2	Alphanumeric	Identifies the type of election: **Value** **Description** PP Presidential Primary PG Presidential General DD Direct Primary GP Gubernatorial Primary GG Gubernatorial General SS Statewide Special

1.4.8. 'S' - Statewide Messages

The 'S' message associates the county name with the county code.

File Structure

Message	Description
B	Beginning of message file
S	Statewide
E	End of message file

Sample

[B|CAS|1|20240215|1018510]
[S|CAS|2|01|Alameda]
…
…
[S|CAS|60|59|California]
[E|CAS|61|20240215|1355580]

[	S			CAS			SEQ NBR		County Code		County Name	]
				3 bytes			1 to 2 bytes		2 bytes		1 to 15 bytes	

Field	Length	Data Type	Message Description
County Code	2	Alphanumeric	Identifies the county • The counties are numbered in ascending sequential order proceeding alphabetically. • County 59 indicates the record contains statewide information.
County Name	Variable 1-15	Alphanumeric	County name