



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State

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Disaster Recovery Assistance Factsheet

When disaster strikes, we stand together as Californians to rebuild and recover. These wildfires have touched the lives of many, and the California Secretary of State's office is here to help. We are committed to providing essential services to individuals, families, and businesses affected by the fires. From assisting with business records and vital documents to ensuring displaced voters can exercise their rights, our team is ready to support you through every step of recovery. Explore the variety of services we offer and know that you are not alone. Together, we will rise stronger.

Business Entities Online Records

bizfile Online allows people to search for corporations, limited liability companies and limited partnerships registered with the California Secretary of State. Certificates of Status and certified copies of records may be ordered through **bizfile** Online and are available within minutes. These certificates can be helpful to open bank accounts, apply for loans and other financial assistance.

bizfile Online also may be used to update businesses' addresses by filing a new Statement of Information. Most businesses coming to California must register with the California Secretary of State. The fastest way to register your business is to submit online using **bizfile** Online.

Website: bizfileOnline.sos.ca.gov

Notary Public Commissioning

Notaries impacted by the fires may need to file an address change, report lost or stolen seal and/or journal, and request duplicate notary seal authorization.

Website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/>

Apostilles

The California Secretary of State issues Apostilles which verifies the public official's signature on documents used outside the United States. This includes death certificates, birth certificates, marriage certificates, business documents, powers of attorney, university transcripts, and judgments.

Website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/request-apostille>

Domestic Partnership Registry

The California Secretary of State files domestic partnerships. All couples regardless of age or sexual orientation that are eligible to be married may register with the California Secretary of State as domestic partners. Registered domestic partners have the same rights, protections, and benefits, and are subject to the same responsibilities, obligations, and duties under California law as are granted to and imposed upon spouses. We are prepared to accept for filing new Domestic Partnerships, terminations, and/or provide copies of existing Domestic Partnership filings that may have been lost in the fires.

Website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/domestic-partners-registry>



Contact Us | Reference: 2025 SoCal Fires

SOS Legislative and Constituent Affairs | ConstituentAffairs@sos.ca.gov | (916) 653-6774
Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Advance Health Care Directive Registry

The California Secretary of State maintains the Advance Health Care Directive Registry as required by Probate Code section 4800. This section allows individuals who have executed an advance health care directive to register their information with the California Secretary of State. This information is made available upon request to the registrant's health care provider, public guardian, or legal representative. A request for information must state the need for the information.

Website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/advance-health-care-directive-registry/>

Safe at Home – Confidential Address Program

If you are a Safe at Home participant, you may change your address by sending an email to safeathome@sos.ca.gov with your request. Please include your name, Safe at Home 4-digit ID number, old address, new address, and confirm whether the change applies to your mailing, residential, or both addresses. If you prefer to request a mail hold, please call our toll-free number at (877) 322-5227 and include the length of time for the mail hold request. You will be required to answer the following security questions including, name, Safe at Home 4-digit ID number, mailing address on file (where you receive mail) and your phone number. Visit our website for more information about the Safe at Home program, including applying to become a participant.

Website: www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome

Email: safeathome@sos.ca.gov

Phone: (877) 322-5227

Elections

If you have been displaced due to recent fires, and want to ensure you can exercise your right to vote in any upcoming election, consider changing your mailing address by registering to vote at registertovote.ca.gov; this will ensure that you will receive election information and your ballot in the mail. If there is a local election happening in your area, contact your local county elections office or your city elections office for more information.

Website: registertovote.ca.gov

Email: elections@sos.ca.gov

Political Reform

Campaign and lobbying entities that are required to file disclosure statements with the Secretary of State's office, pursuant to the Political Reform Act, may be eligible for a full or partial waiver of fines for late filing if the delay is due to circumstances such as natural disasters, fire, or theft that hinders access to necessary records. We are ready to accept a filer's signed Request for Waiver of Liability Form at the time of late filing to expedite the review of their request. A filer is not required to provide supporting documentation if the reason for the late filing is due to a government-declared state of emergency. If you have been displaced due to recent fires, contact us at either (916) 653-6224 or via email at prd@sos.ca.gov for support.

Website: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/campaign-lobbying>

Email: prd@sos.ca.gov

Phone: (916) 653-6224



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