

Rules for Counting Words

The following guidelines are for computing the word count for arguments. The author's titles and signatures are not counted in the word count, only the text. Punctuation does not count as a word. The Registrar of Voters will make the final determination of the word count.

WORD(S)

Dictionary Words

The words "I," "a," "the," "and," etc. are counted as individual words One

Abbreviations/Acronyms

Examples: SJSU, PTA, U.S.M.C., M.V.P.D. One

Geographical Names

Only State of California, City, County and District Names One

*Examples: City of Mountain View, Los Altos/Whisman School District,
County of Santa Clara*

Numbers/Numerical Combinations/Email Addresses

Digits (1, 10, or 100, etc.) One

Spelled out (one, ten, or one hundred) One/each word

50%, ½%, etc. One

Internet/Email addresses (www.mountainview.gov) One

Numbers or Letters used to Identify a Portion of Text

Examples: (1) or (a) One

Dates

All digits (11/04/14) One

Words and Digits (November 4, 2014) Two

Characters Used in Place of a Word or Number

Examples: & or # One

Hyphenated Words - *Hyphenated words that appear in any dictionary printed in the United States in the last ten years shall be considered as one word.*

Mother-in-law One

One-half Two