

June 11, 2025

**SUBMITTED VIA CFTC PORTAL**

Secretary of the Commission  
Office of the Secretariat  
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Three Lafayette Centre  
1155 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20581

Re: KalshiEX LLC – CFTC Regulation 40.2(a) Notification Regarding the Initial Listing of the “Will a ballot initiative on California secession collect enough signatures to qualify before <date>?” Contract

Dear Sir or Madam,

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act and Section 40.2(a) of the regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, KalshiEX LLC (Kalshi), a registered DCM, hereby notifies the Commission that it is self-certifying the “Will a ballot initiative on California secession collect enough signatures to qualify before <date>?” contract (Contract). The Contract will initially be listed after close-of-business on June 11, 2025; it is listed as the day after because of limitations of the Commission's online submission portal. The Exchange intends to list the contract on a **custom** basis. The Contract's terms and conditions (Appendix A) includes the following strike conditions:

- **<date>**

Along with this letter, Kalshi submits the following documents:

- A concise explanation and analysis of the Contract;
- Certification;
- Appendix A with the Contract's Terms and Conditions;
- Confidential Appendices with further information; and
- A request for FOIA confidential treatment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Xavier Sottile  
Head of Markets  
KalshiEX LLC  
xsottile@kalshi.com



KalshiEX LLC

Official Product Name: “Will a ballot initiative on California secession collect enough signatures to qualify before <date>?”

Rulebook: CASECESSION

Summary: California secession ballot initiative signature collection

Kalshi Contract Category: Other Event

Kalshi Internal Category: World

June 10, 2025

## **CONCISE EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, INCLUDING CORE PRINCIPLES AND THE COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS THEREUNDER**

Pursuant to Commission Rule 40.2(a)(3)(v), the following is a concise explanation and analysis of the product and its compliance with the Act, including the relevant Core Principles (discussed in Appendix D), and the Commission's regulations thereunder.

### **I. Introduction**

The “Will a ballot initiative on California secession collect enough signatures to qualify before <date>?” Contract is a contract relating to World.

Further information about the Contract, including an analysis of its risk mitigation and price basing utility, as well as additional considerations related to the Contract, is included in Confidential Appendices B, C, and D.

Pursuant to Section 5c(c) of the Act and CFTC Regulations 40.2(a), the Exchange hereby certifies that the listing of the Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations under the Act.

**General Contract Terms and Conditions:** The Contract operates similar to other event contracts that the Exchange lists for trading. The minimum price fluctuation is \$0.01 (one cent). Price bands will apply so that Contracts may only be listed at values of at least \$0.01 and at most \$0.99. Further, the Contract is sized with a one-dollar notional value and has a minimum price fluctuation of \$0.01 to enable Members to match the size of the contracts purchased to their economic risks. As outlined in Rule 5.12 of the Rulebook, trading shall be available at all times outside of any maintenance windows, which will be announced in advance by the Exchange. Members will be charged fees in accordance with Rule 3.6 of the Rulebook. Fees, if they are charged, are charged in such amounts as may be revised from time to time to be reflected on the Exchange's Website. A new Source Agency can be added via a Part 40 amendment. All instructions on how to access

the Underlying are non-binding and are provided for convenience only and are not part of the binding Terms and Conditions of the Contract. They may be clarified at any time. Furthermore, the Contract's payout structure is characterized by the payment of an absolute amount to the holder of one side of the option and no payment to the counterparty. During the time that trading on the Contract is open, Members are able to adjust their positions and trade freely. The Expiration Value and Market Outcome are determined at or after Market Close. The market is then settled by the Exchange, and the long position holders and short position holders are paid according to the Market Outcome. In this case, "long position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "Yes" side of the Contract and "short position holders" refers to Members who purchased the "No" side of the Contract. If the Market Outcome is "Yes," meaning that an event occurs that is encompassed within the Payout Criterion, then the long position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the short position holders receive no payment. If the Market Outcome is "No," then the short position holders are paid an absolute amount proportional to the size of their position and the long position holders receive no payment. Specification of the circumstances that would trigger a Market Outcome of "Yes" are included below in the section titled "Payout Criterion" in Appendix A.

**CERTIFICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 5c OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE  
ACT, 7 U.S.C. § 7A-2 AND COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION RULE  
40.2, 17 C.F.R. § 40.2**

Based on the above analysis, the Exchange certifies that:

- The Contract complies with the Act and Commission regulations thereunder.
- This submission (other than those appendices for which confidential treatment has been requested) has been concurrently posted on the Exchange's website at <https://kalshi.com/regulatory/filings>.

Should you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the exchange at [ProductFilings@kalshi.com](mailto:ProductFilings@kalshi.com).



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By: Xavier Sottile  
Title: Head of Markets  
Date: June 10, 2025

**Attachments:**

Appendix A - Contract Terms and Conditions

Appendix B (Confidential) - Further Considerations

Appendix C (Confidential) - Source Agency

Appendix D (Confidential) - Compliance with Core Principles

**APPENDIX A – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Official Product Name: “Will a ballot initiative on California secession qualify for a vote  
<date>?”**

**Rulebook: CASECESSION**

## CASECESSION

**Scope:** These rules shall apply to this contract.

**Underlying:** The Underlying for this Contract is the official determination by the California Secretary of State regarding ballot qualification for any initiative proposing California secession, occurring after Issuance and before <date>. Revisions to the Underlying made after Expiration will not be accounted for in determining the Expiration Value.

**Source Agency:** The Source Agencies are the California Secretary of State (official website and announcements), Official California Legislative Information website, California Attorney General's Office, California county registrars' offices, official proponent filings, Court decisions from California Supreme Court or Federal Courts with jurisdiction, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, Associated Press, Reuters, Politico California, CalMatters, and Ballotpedia.

**Type:** The type of Contract is an Event Contract.

**Issuance:** After the initial Contract, Contract iterations will be listed on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the Exchange and corresponding to the risk management needs of Members.

**<date>:** <date> refers to a calendar date specified by the Exchange. The Exchange may list iterations of the Contract corresponding to variations of <date>.

**Payout Criterion:** The Payout Criterion for the Contract encompasses the Expiration Values that at least one ballot initiative on California secession has officially qualified for the ballot as certified by the California Secretary of State after Issuance and before <date>. A ballot initiative on California secession is defined as any proposed ballot measure that:

- Explicitly proposes Californian independence from the United States
- Proposes California becoming a sovereign nation
- Proposes procedures for California to secede from the Union
- Would establish California as anything other than a U.S. state

This excludes:

- Initiatives for greater state autonomy while remaining in the U.S.
- Proposals to split California into multiple U.S. states

For qualification to meet the Payout Criterion:

- The Secretary of State must issue an official certification that the measure qualified; signature verification alone is not sufficient unless final qualification occurs

- The qualification must be based on verified signatures, not raw submissions
- The measure must propose or support secession as defined above
- Court-ordered disqualifications after initial qualification still count as YES
- The date of qualification certification (not signature submission) must fall before <date>

Clarifications:

- Multiple secession initiatives qualifying each count (only need one for YES)
- If signatures are submitted before <date> but verified after, this resolves NO
- Initiatives that become certified after Issuance and before <date> but are later withdrawn still count as YES
- Preliminary county reports are not sufficient - need Secretary of State certification
- Constitutional validity of secession is irrelevant to qualification

Examples that would resolve to YES:

- "California Independence Act" collects 1.2M verified signatures and qualifies in March
- Secretary of State certifies "Calexit 2028" has met signature threshold
- Multiple secession initiatives qualify, even if later consolidated

Examples that would NOT resolve to YES:

- Initiative collects enough raw signatures but fails verification
- "Divide California into 3 States" initiative qualifies (not secession)
- Secession initiative submitted but still undergoing signature verification at <date>
- Court blocks initiative before signature collection begins

**Minimum Tick:** The Minimum Tick size for the Contract shall be \$0.01.

**Position Accountability Level:** The Position Accountability Level for the Contract shall be \$25,000 per strike, per Member.

**Last Trading Date:** The Last Trading Date of the Contract will be the day prior to <date>. The Last Trading Time will be 11:59 PM ET.

**Settlement Date:** The Settlement Date of the Contract shall be no later than the day after the Expiration Date, unless the Market Outcome is under review pursuant to Rule 7.1.

**Expiration Date:** The latest Expiration Date of the Contract shall be one week after <date>. If a qualifying secession initiative is certified, expiration will be moved to an earlier date and time in accordance with Rule 7.2.

**Expiration time:** The Expiration time of the Contract shall be 10:00 AM ET.

**Settlement Value:** The Settlement Value for this Contract is \$1.00.

**Expiration Value:** The Expiration Value is the value of the Underlying as documented by the Source Agency on the Expiration Date at the Expiration time.

**Contingencies:** Before Settlement, Kalshi may, at its sole discretion, initiate the Market Outcome Review Process pursuant to Rule 6.3(d) of the Rulebook. If an Expiration Value cannot be determined on the Expiration Date, Kalshi has the right to determine payouts pursuant to Rule 6.3(b) in the Rulebook.