



Date: May 2, 2006
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Larry Herrera, City Clerk
Subject: Election Related Charter Amendments

With the convening of the Charter Amendment Committee on May 2, 2006, I hereby submit the following for your consideration.

With elections becoming increasingly complicated and costly (for voters, candidates and administrators alike), I recommend that the City Council discuss and determine the priority of the following possible Charter Amendment alternatives:

1. Move the Primary Nominating Election (PNE) to February – If approved by voters, moving the PNE forward to the first Tuesday in February will allow the City to consolidate the City's June General Municipal Election (GME) election on the County statewide ballot.
2. Move the City Elections to Odd-Numbered Calendar Years – If approved by voters, this change could take place as early as April 2009.

Both of the above changes have advantages and disadvantages that can be addressed during your meeting.

If approved by voters, both approaches would permit the City of Long Beach to utilize the County of Los Angeles voting system.

In November 2006, the County's INKAVOTE System is being upgraded to a "precinct level" ballot counting system. Once implemented, the system will meet federal and state voting standards related to disabled voter access and safeguards to protect against accidental "under and over-voted" ballots.