

**SUBJECT**

***Free Rides on Statewide Primary and General Election Days in Calendar Year 2020  
(Staff Representative: Debra Johnson)***

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

***To authorize the President and CEO to provide fixed-route transportation and Dial-A-Lift paratransit services free of fare on Statewide Primary and General Election Days in Calendar Year 2020.***

**BACKGROUND**

In an effort to reduce the barriers to voting for individuals that rely on Long Beach Transit (LBT) for mobility, staff is recommending LBT provide fixed-route transportation and Dial-A-Lift paratransit services free of fare on statewide primary and general election days in calendar year 2020, which consists of the primary election on March 3, 2020, and the general election on November 3, 2020.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAEE) found that approximately 30 percent of non-voters across the country claimed that the lack of transportation to the polls was a factor in deciding not to vote. In California, that number rose to 51 percent.

In the June 2018 primary election, Los Angeles County saw a voter turnout of just 39 percent. Additionally, studies have shown that minority, low-income, persons with disabilities and younger voters have consistently lower turnout than average. These populations are also the ones most reliant on public transportation for mobility.

To encourage voter turnout, other Los Angeles County transit agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, are providing free fare on election days. LBT wants to ensure all voters have the opportunity to get to a polling station.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Board may choose not to approve the recommendation. However, staff does not recommend this option as many voters who depend on LBT for mobility may not reach polls without adequate means of transportation.



---

Kenneth A. McDonald  
President and Chief Executive Officer