



CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY CLERK

R-20

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September 14, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: Recommendation Regarding SB 1730 (Johnson) and the Changing of
Statewide Primary Election Dates Beginning in 2006.

DISCUSSION

SB 1730 (Johnson), enrolled to the Governor on September 3, 2004, proposes to change the Statewide Primary Election, currently held the first Tuesday in March of even-numbered years, to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in June of even-numbered years. The enactment of SB 1730 will directly affect the City's General Municipal Election Date beginning in June 2006. Given longstanding bipartisan support for SB 1730, its enactment into law by the Governor is highly likely.

In light of this imminent election date change, and in order for the City to avoid the pitfalls of conducting a concurrent election (separate City and County ballots) with the statewide primary, the City Clerk met with the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder (RRCC) to discuss the feasibility of allowing the City to consolidate (all election contests on one ballot) the General Municipal Election with the statewide primary. As of this date the ability to consolidate the election is not likely, unless a joint City-County strategy is developed soon.

Concurrent Elections

A concurrent election is when two elections are held by two different jurisdictions on the same date, at the same voting locations, but with separate ballots that must be processed and tabulated at separate locations, a separate precinct board, separate precinct supplies, separate ballot box, etc. Concurrent elections are highly prone to voter confusion and frustration, including lost ballots and significant costs.

Consolidated Elections

Due to the imminent enactment of SB 1730, now is the time to re-examine the issue of consolidating elections with the RRCC, wherein City election contests and measures would be placed on one ballot. The current policy of the RRCC is to deny consolidation requests by cities in even-numbered calendar years due to capacity limitations of the existing voting system.

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FISCAL IMPACT

Without consolidation, the City will be forced to organize for the conduct of concurrent elections. The cost of concurrent 2006 elections would increase the FY06 projected election budget of \$1.2 million by an estimated \$600,000 to \$750,000, for a grand total of \$1.8 to \$1.95 million.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Refer the subject of consolidated elections with Los Angeles County to the Election Oversight Committee for further discussion and request a report back to City Council in December 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


LARRY HERRERA
CITY CLERK