

CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY CLERK

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6101 FAX (562) 570-6789

March 9, 2005

Elections Oversight Committee
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair, 4th District
Dan Baker, 2nd District
Laura Richardson, 6th District

City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: SB 1730 – June 2006 City Run-Off Election and Statewide Primary.

DISCUSSION

This report is intended to achieve two purposes: first to further discussion of the above subject as requested by the City Council on September 14, 2004 (see Attachment A); second, to update the Elections Oversight Committee on efforts related to improvement of the City's election system prior to and since enactment of SB 1730.

SB 1730 became law in 2005 and it changes the State election schedule resulting in the Statewide Primary Election falling on the same date as the June 6, 2006, run-off election for citywide and district offices in the City of Long Beach. Given the City's election history, a run-off election for citywide office is quite likely.

BACKGROUND

Since December 2002, the City of Long Beach has sought to improve the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, security, and transparency of its elections system. Efforts towards this aim are highlighted below.

In April 2003, the City Council adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary of State to allow cities to participate and receive Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds for election systems and voter outreach.

In June 2003, the City submitted the Municipal Elections Project to Secretary of State Kevin Shelley requesting \$2.8 million federal and state funds to launch a pilot project that would provide for the procurement of a modern City voting system. The request included a provision to share the voting system with other Los Angeles County cities that routinely conduct their own municipal elections. The Secretary's response declining to fund the Project is shown in Attachment B.

In December 2003, the City contracted with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (hereinafter referred to as RRCC) for access to the countywide election information management system. With successful installation of the system in

the City Clerk Department, the system produced many efficiencies and benefits that ultimately lead to the conduct of timely and successful elections in April and June 2004.

In November 2004, City Clerk Department staff released, a "request for information" (RFI) to determine the approximate costs of a modern City voting system. Depending on the type of system proposed and its configuration, the cost to acquire a modern City election system ranges from \$3.1 to \$8.0 million. During the RFI process, several vendors expressed an interest in demonstrating their voting technologies.

In December 2004, City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney staff addressed the possibility of securing state and federal funding for the procurement of a new City voting system via proposed legislation. Upon consideration of federal and state mandates pertaining to voters with disabilities and paper audit trails, and provisions of Proposition 1A, staff concluded that the federal or state legislative change was not viable.

BARRIERS TO CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS

The Los Angeles County voting system cannot accommodate consolidated elections for two reasons. First, the holding of the April Primary election (56 days before June 6th) does not allow sufficient time to prepare voter ballot materials for those who become qualified run-off candidates. Second, the County "ink a vote" voting system does not have the necessary "voting position" capacity to accommodate any eventual run-off candidates.

Even if the Primary Election date was advanced to February from April to allow more time to prepare ballot materials, it is quite unlikely that a "guarantee" to place run-off candidates on a consolidated June 6th ballot could be offered by the County of Los Angeles (See Attachment C.)

Current policy of denying cities' request for consolidation with Primary and General elections is set forth in the attached RRCC report to the County Board of Supervisors dated May 11, 2004 (See Attachment D).

As a result of the inability to consolidate elections, SB 1730 forces the City of Long Beach and the County of Los Angeles to conduct a risk laden "concurrent election" mode (i.e., when two elections are held by two different jurisdictions on the same date, but with separate voting stations, sample ballots, precinct ballots, absentee ballots, precinct boards, precinct supplies and ballot boxes, etc. at the same polling location). For April and June there will be approximately 240 to 280 polling locations.

CONCURRENT ELECTION PROBLEMS-CHALLENGES

The problems associated with concurrent elections in the City's election history are well documented. Concurrent elections have great potential to: cause significant voter and

candidate concern; negatively affect the City's public image; create lack of trust in City elections; and increase the cost of election costs.

The City Clerk Department has no desire to repeat the negative concurrent election events of 1994 and 1998; rather we seek to improve public confidence, trust and accountability in the City-County elections of June 2006.

A comparison of the City and County ballot cards that would be provided to voters in a concurrent election, provides a good example (out of many) of how voters, candidates, poll workers and the media can be confounded on Election Day June 2006.

Comparison of City and County Ballots

OFFICIAL BALLOT
 CITY OF LONG BEACH
 PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION
 TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2004

Mark your choice(s) by FILLING IN OVAL COMPLETELY with a BLACK OR DARK COLORED PEN.

11 11 11175

KENNEDY COLLINS
Quality Coordinator

TERRY G. JENSEN
Business - Property Consultant

ROB WEBB
City Councilman, Eighth District

RAE M. GABELICH
Foundation Program Businesswoman

Write-in Candidate

END OF BALLOT

VOID

FOR DEMO ONLY

Long Beach

PLACE HOLES OVER RED POSTS

INSERT CARD THIS SIDE UP

FOR DEMONSTRATION USE ONLY

FILL IN CIRCLE WITH MARKER PROVIDED

1	27	53	79	105	131	157	183	209	235	261	287
2	28	54	80	106	132	158	184	210	236	262	288
3	29	55	81	107	133	159	185	211	237	263	289
4	30	56	82	108	134	160	186	212	238	264	290
5	31	57	83	109	135	161	187	213	239	265	291
6	32	58	84	110	136	162	188	214	240	266	292
7	33	59	85	111	137	163	189	215	241	267	293
8	34	60	86	112	138	164	190	216	242	268	294
9	35	61	87	113	139	165	191	217	243	269	295
10	36	62	88	114	140	166	192	218	244	270	296
11	37	63	89	115	141	167	193	219	245	271	297
12	38	64	90	116	142	168	194	220	246	272	298
13	39	65	91	117	143	169	195	221	247	273	299
14	40	66	92	118	144	170	196	222	248	274	300
15	41	67	93	119	145	171	197	223	249	275	301
16	42	68	94	120	146	172	198	224	250	276	302
17	43	69	95	121	147	173	199	225	251	277	303
18	44	70	96	122	148	174	200	226	252	278	304
19	45	71	97	123	149	175	201	227	253	279	305
20	46	72	98	124	150	176	202	228	254	280	306
21	47	73	99	125	151	177	203	229	255	281	307
22	48	74	100	126	152	178	204	230	256	282	308
23	49	75	101	127	153	179	205	231	257	283	309
24	50	76	102	128	154	180	206	232	258	284	310
25	51	77	103	129	155	181	207	233	259	285	311
26	52	78	104	130	156	182	208	234	260	286	312

Making the use of the above ballots becomes more perplexing to voters because each ballot utilizes a different method for the recording of votes for write-in candidates. On the City ballot, the name of the write-in candidate is spelled-out on the ballot; on the County ballot, the name of the candidate is marked on a separate "grey secrecy sleeve."

According to the RRCC, in a memo to city clerks dated June 15, 2004, concurrent elections are described as the worst of all possible election worlds (See Attachment E).

Continued use of the existing County voting system has not yet been recommended to or determined by the County Board of Supervisors. However, City staff understands that the RRCC will be making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the future of the "ink-a-vote" system, in next several months. A November 22, 2004, Los Angeles Times story related to retention of the "ink-a-vote" system is contained in Attachment F.

CITY-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In November 2004, Mayor O'Neill wrote Supervisor Don Knabe to express the City's interest in taking advantage of the circumstances created by SB 1730, i.e., to successfully plan for a consolidated election. The full text of the Mayor's letter is contained in Attachment G.

In early February 2005, the Mayor met with Supervisor Knabe to discuss the potential problems caused by SB 1730, as well as the City's objectives and recommendations to mitigate its impacts. Attachment H contains the document titled "Mayor's SB 1730 Talking Points" provided to Supervisor Knabe during the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

Consider and discuss the impacts of SB 1730 as discussed in this report;

Request that the City Attorney and City Clerk meet with the RRCC to seek agreement on the "talking points" contained in Attachment H;

Refer this report back to the full City Council for approval, along with any further considerations generated by the Elections Oversight Committee.

Respectfully submitted,


LARRY HERRERA
CITY CLERK

ATTACHMENT A



CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY CLERK

R-20

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802 • (562) 570-6101 FAX (562) 570-6789

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.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
September 14, 2004
Page 2

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

ATTACHMENT B



SECRETARY OF STATE
KEVIN SHELLEY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
LONG BEACH, CALIF.
03 JUL 25 AM 8:16

July 21, 2003

Mr. Larry Herrera
Long Beach City Clerk
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Mr. Herrera:

Thank you for your letter of June 24, 2003 and your proposal entitled "Investing in Democracy – Municipal Elections Pilot Project." We have reviewed your proposal.

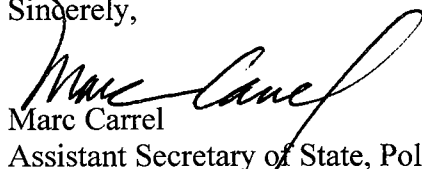
Your proposal requests that funding be set aside from Help America Vote Act (HAVA) monies to assist the City of Long Beach in purchasing voting equipment, connecting to the statewide database required by the federal law, training poll workers, and reaching out to voters.

Your desire to move forward aggressively to provide residents of Long Beach with modern voting equipment, training, and other tools is commendable. However, throughout the process of developing the State Plan to implement HAVA, it became abundantly clear that there are more stated needs for the funds than there are funds. This office is interested in working in partnership to make sure that the people of Long Beach, like all Californians, receive the benefit of federal and state funds to modernize election systems. However, we must be confident that these funds are expended as efficiently as possible.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you, as the election official in the City of Long Beach, coordinate your application for funds, and the proposal for using these funds, with the Registrar of Voters in the County of Los Angeles. This coordination will ensure that scarce funds are allocated most efficiently and Californians receive the greatest benefit from the federal funds provided under HAVA.

If you have any questions or if I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Marc Carrel
Assistant Secretary of State, Policy & Planning

Cc: Long Beach Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney

ATTACHMENT C

Deborah Wright

<DWright@rrcc.co.la.ca.us>

09/29/2004 08:55 AM

To: "Larry_Herrera@longbeach.gov" <Larry_Herrera@longbeach.gov>,
"Rebecca_Burleson@longbeach.gov" <Rebecca_Burleson@longbeach.gov>
cc: Conny McCormack <CMcCorma@rrcc.co.la.ca.us>, Kristin Heffron
<KHeffron@rrcc.co.la.ca.us>, Darlene Bonds <DBonds@rrcc.co.la.ca.us>, Priscilla Smith
<PSmith@rrcc.co.la.ca.us>
Subject: FW: SB 1730 - Consolidation Options

Larry,

Below is Priscilla Smith's excellent summary of the issues involved. There seems to be consensus here that your "option 1," i.e., moving City Primary Nominating Election to February of even-numbered years, is the best answer IF the City is determined to consolidate one of its two elections.

Please make your Council and Charter Amendment Committee aware, however, that neither option guarantees that you won't be forced into a concurrent election. The best option of all remains for the City to have independent elections for both the Primary and General Municipal Elections.

Please call me if you want to discuss further.

Deborah

(562) 462-2877

-----Original Message-----

From: Priscilla Smith

Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 4:06 PM

To: Deborah Wright; Conny McCormack; Kristin Heffron; Darlene Bonds

Subject: RE: SB 1730 - Consolidation Options

i prefer option 1 with change of city's primary nomination election to february. this would allow them sufficient time to meet the e-88 (3/12/06) consolidation deadline and the e-81 (3/19/06) deadline to submit certified list of candidates to county. however there are some issues to resolve (especially no. 3):

1. candidates for city contests would continue to file nomination documents with city clerk (this is the usual process for city elections cons with county elections). long beach city offices scheduled to appear on 2006 ballot include mayor, attorney, auditor, prosecutor and 4 council districts (even-numbered only).

2. city permits candidates submitting candidate statements to not only select statements to be printed in english only or english and spanish but city also permits candidates to select other minority languages including samoan, cambodian, khmer, etc. in these cases candidates pay for printing cost for inclusion in sample ballot booklet but city absorbs translation cost. this policy conflicts with county policy of allowing candidates selection of english only or english and spanish but no other languages.

3. there is still a good chance that county could exceed the ballot capacity in the primary election with

ATTACHMENT D



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/ (562) 462-2716

CONNOR B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

May 11, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

CONSOLIDATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS / CITY OF SIERRA MADRE

Overview / Summary

At its meeting of April 20, 2004, your Board considered a request from the City of Sierra Madre to consolidate its Municipal Election with the Statewide Primary in March of even-numbered years. This report is in response to your request for a review of the issues involved in consolidation of city elections in general, and further discussion between our Department and the City of Sierra Madre in particular.

RR/CC staff has met with the City of Sierra Madre regarding the complex issues involved in major-election consolidation. The City is considering a variety of other options to achieve their goals of cost saving and of relieving the City of the responsibility for conducting elections.

Finite ballot capacity continues to limit the County's ability to guarantee access to Primary and General election ballots. Future electronic voting will relieve the ballot capacity issue.

Background

Following passage of AB 1521 in 2003 (see *Attachment A*), several cities have asked about moving city election dates to coincide with regularly scheduled County elections. All cities have been advised that the date available and guaranteed for consolidation is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd numbered years under the Uniform District Election Law, or UDEL. Some cities can achieve cost savings (in comparison to conducting their

own elections) by consolidating with the UDEL, as they may share costs with school districts, college trustee boards, water boards, etc. However, whether or not cost savings can be realized depends on the total picture of jurisdictional boundaries.

Cities That Currently Consolidate

Attachment B shows how elections are conducted in each of the 88 cities in the County.

March Primary Election Consolidation

Only one city, Torrance, is consolidated with the March Statewide Primary Election in even-numbered years. Unlike the Sierra Madre request, this consolidation was not the result of a request by the City of Torrance. Torrance is a charter city and its regular municipal election was set by charter in 1974 on the first Tuesday of March in even-numbered years. Charter-established election dates can only be changed by a vote of the people; Torrance attempted to change to May of even-numbered years through a ballot measure in 1999 but the measure was defeated.

November General Election Consolidations

Five cities consolidate with the November General Election in even-numbered years, also the result of long-standing Charter provisions. One of these, the City of Santa Monica, was forced to conduct a concurrent election due to ballot capacity measures during one election cycle.

UDEL Consolidations

Eleven cities currently consolidate with the November odd-numbered year UDEL election. Several cities, including Bradbury (D-5), Commerce (D-1), Santa Clarita (D-5), and Santa Fe Springs (D-1), are in the process of considering moving city election dates to coincide with the UDEL.

Board Policy

Since 1981, your Board has consistently applied a policy of denying requests for consolidation with Primary and General Elections due to the limited number of ballot positions and the risk of forcing concurrent elections. The change from punch card ballots to InkaVote optical scan ballots did not change the ballot size limitations. The InkaVote ballot has exactly the same number of available positions as the punch card.

Issues Regarding Primary and General Election Consolidations

Ballot Capacity and the Risk of Concurrent Elections

Until Los Angeles County is able to conduct electronic voting Countywide, the issue of ballot capacity will continue to limit the number of races and candidates that can be accommodated in any given ballot style. When ballot capacity is exceeded, and a City has been authorized to call its election on a Countywide election date, the City must conduct its own election on the same date as the County's. This is called a concurrent election. This occurs because the conditions forcing a concurrent election are not known until too late in the process for the City to change its election date. (That is, the election has been called, candidates and measures have been filed, and the final date for changes has passed when it is discovered that there are too many contests to fit on a consolidated County ballot.)

A concurrent process raises the following issues:

- Voters are required to check in at two separate tables, sign separate rosters, and under current conditions would vote using two different voting systems – one for the County election and one for the City election.
- The potential for error is very high, and includes the risk of co-mingled City/County ballots.
- Because voters are given their County ballot first, some jurisdictions report considerable voter "drop-off" for City elections held in this manner. Some voters become impatient or understandably confused or upset and do not want to stand in line and sign in a second time, and leave the polling place before casting a City ballot.
- Concurrent elections are confusing and nonsensical for both pollworkers and voters.
- Concurrent elections are not cost effective

Additional considerations include:

- State law prohibits precinct consolidation for Primary and General elections. Cities are not bound by this mandate. Therefore, in concurrent elections, cities are paying additional costs for polling locations and pollworkers that they would not expend if they were conducting an independent election with consolidated voting precincts.
- Because of the thousands of voting locations in a Countywide election, we begin selecting polling places and pollworkers months in advance of a major election. The conditions which force a concurrent election are not known until the close of candidate filing and receipt of all ballot measures. This timing

conflict can result in polling places that are too small to accommodate the additional staff and supplies required in a concurrent election.

Effect on Voter Turnout

- Cities sometimes assume that placing their candidates and measures on a countywide ballot will increase voter turnout for their races. However, City candidates and measures always appear at or near the end of County ballots. A lengthy ballot invites voter fatigue and often produces a higher undervote (no vote) rate for the contests appearing at the end. Therefore it cannot be assumed that consolidation with a major election has a positive effect on local turnout.

Coordination Issues

Absentee Voting

- With concurrent elections, two elections are conducted separately. Voters receive two sample ballots and those wishing to vote by mail must apply separately to the County and to the City for absentee ballots. When this occurred in Long Beach and other cities holding concurrent elections in the past, voters were confused. Despite the mutual exchange of absent voter lists between City and County, the risk of some voters failing to receive one of the two absentee ballots is increased.

In past concurrent elections, it was not uncommon for voters to place both City and County absentee ballots in one envelope. Because the County canvass process is twice as long as the City's, some voted absentee ballots were not discovered by the County until the City's canvass was complete

Election Results

- Cities typically finish election night ballot counting much earlier in the evening than does the County, due to smaller volume. In concurrent elections, cities must wait for all City precincts to report to County check-in centers. This often leads to lengthening the election night process for cities by several hours.
- For the Long Beach concurrent elections, both City and County assigned staff to one another's central counting facility to retrieve misplaced ballots

Future Consolidation Possibilities

We anticipate that with the that many cities will desire to consolidate elections with the County once an electronic voting system is implemented Countywide as

1) there are no ballot capacity issues with electronic voting systems and 2) cities could then avoid the more complex election administration involved in conducting this type of election themselves. While the move to electronic voting is currently on hold due to the instability and uncertainty surrounding the future of electronic voting in California, our planning has always included the needs of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. We have held numerous discussions with cities about these possibilities, and most City Clerks concur that they would be interested in offering their City Councils the option of consolidation when ballot capacity issues are resolved by the virtually unlimited capacity of electronic voting.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The continued issue of limited ballot capacity of paper-based voting systems means that consolidation of city elections with major County elections continues to pose a high risk of concurrent elections, the most difficult of elections to conduct without unacceptable rates of error. It is recommended that the Board continue its policy of denying cities' requests for consolidation with Primary and General elections until such time as electronic voting equipment makes these consolidations practical and enables us to offer this option equally to all cities within Los Angeles County.

Attachment A: AB 1521

Attachment B: City Election Schedules – Los Angeles County

c: Judy Whitehurst, County Counsel

Attachment B

City Election Schedules – Los Angeles County

Supervisory District indicated in parenthesis following each city.

Independent Elections Conducted By City Clerks

Odd-Numbered Years: First Tuesday After the First Monday in March

Artesia (4)	Cerritos (4) (c)	Huntington Park (1)	La Verne (5)	Pico Rivera (1) (4)	Santa Fe Springs (1)
Azusa (1)	Claremont (5)	Industry (c) (1)	Manhattan Beach (4)	Redondo Beach (c) (4)	Signal Hill (c) (4)
Baldwin Park (1)	Commerce (1)	Inwindale (c) (1)	Maywood (1)	Rolling Hills (4)	South El Monte (1)
Bell (1)	Covina (5)	La Canada Flintridge (5)	Monrovia (5)	Rosemead (1)	South Gate (1)
Bellflower (4)	Cudahy (1)	La Habra Heights (4)	Monterey Park (1)	San Dimas (5)	South Pasadena (5)
Bell Gardens (1)	El Monte (1) (5)	Lakewood (4)	Norwalk (4)	San Fernando (3)	Temple City (c) (5)
Beverly Hills (3)	Gardena (2)	La Mirada (4)	Palos Verdes Estates (4)	San Gabriel (1) (5)	West Covina (5)
Calabasas (3)	Glendora (5)	La Puente (1)	Paramount (4)	San Marino (5)	West Hollywood (3)
Carson (2)	Hidden Hills (3)				

Even-Numbered Years: Second Tuesday in April of each even numbered year

Arcadia (c) (5)	Culver City (c) (2)	Lawndale (2)	Malibu (3)	Sierra Madre (5)	Whittier (c) (4)
Avalon (4)	El Segundo (4)	Long Beach (c) (4)	Santa Clarita (5)	Vernon (c) (1)	Walnut (5)
Bradbury (5)	Lancaster (5)				

Odd Numbered Years: Various Dates

Burbank (c) (5)	Last Tuesday in February and runoff on 2 nd Tuesday in April				
Compton (c) (2)	3 rd Tuesday in April and runoff on 1 st Tuesday in June				
Glendale (c) (5)	1 st Tuesday in April				
Inglewood (c) (2)	1 st Tuesday in April. If runoff is necessary, election to be held not more than 70 days after primary. NOTE: Mayoral election is held on 1 st Tuesday after 1 st Monday in November of the even-numbered year				
Lomita (4)	1 st Tuesday After the 1 st Monday in November				
Los Angeles (c)(1)(5)	2 nd Tuesday in March. If runoff is necessary, election to be held on 1 st Tuesday after 1 st Monday in May				
Pasadena (c) (5)	6 th Tuesday preceding general municipal which is held on 3 rd Tuesday in April				
Westlake Village (3)	1 st Tuesday After the 1 st Monday in November				

Cities That Consolidate Elections with Los Angeles County

Odd-Numbered Years: First Tuesday After the First Monday in November

Agoura Hills (3)	Duarte (5)	Hawthorne (2)	Lynwood (2)	Palmdale (5)	Rolling Hills Estates (4)
Diamond Bar (4)	Hawaiian Gardens (4)	Hermosa Beach (4)	Montebello (1)	Rancho Palos Verdes (4)	

Even-Numbered Years: First Tuesday after the First Monday in March:

Torrance (c) (4)

Even-Numbered Years: First Tuesday After the First Monday in November

Alhambra (c) (5)	Downey (c) (4)	Inglewood (c) (Mayoral) (2)	Pomona (c) (1)	Santa Monica (c) (3)
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(c) Indicates Charter City

ATTACHMENT E



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
 12400 IMPERIAL HWY. - P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/(562) 462-2716

CONNY B. McCORMACK
 REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK
 LONG BEACH, CALIF
 04 JUN 23 AM 9:30

June 15, 2004

TO: City Clerks
 FROM: Deborah Wright, Executive Liaison Officer *DW*

CHANGING MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATES

Today the Board of Supervisors rejected the City of Irwindale's ordinance changing its election date to March of even-numbered years. Their election would have coincided with the statewide Primary Election; Irwindale's City Council wished to hold a concurrent election, NOT a consolidation.

We are advising you of this Board action because we continue to hear from City Clerks whose Councilmembers wish to change municipal election dates. Please remind your City Councils that ordinances changing *city* election dates are *NOT effective until and unless the Board of Supervisors approves the change*. Attached is our most recent report to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the current policy of DENYING requests to change to March or November of even-numbered years.

November Odd Year is Available

The first Tuesday in November of ODD YEARS is open and available to any city whose Council wishes to consolidate with County elections. The Board of Supervisors WILL APPROVE election date changes to November of odd years.

Concurrent Elections

Requests for consolidation with even-numbered year major elections are rejected for two reasons: lack of ballot space to accommodate all cities fairly, and the risk of forcing concurrent elections. Concurrent elections are the worst of all possible election worlds. Some reasons include:

- Voters will NOT know there are two separate elections, even though both the County and the City will send sample ballots.

- Voters who wish to vote by mail must apply to two different jurisdictions. This contradicts voter education efforts that stress, "You may only vote once."
- Voters are confused about what to do with absentee ballots. They will attempt to return ballots to the wrong jurisdiction, they will put both ballots in one envelope (which will not be discovered until the envelope is opened), and they will sometimes switch envelopes so that both jurisdictions receive an incorrect ballot.
- At the polls, some voters will refuse to stand in line a second time to vote the city's ballot.

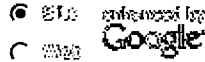
If you have any questions, please call me at (562) 462-2877 or email dwright@rcc.co.la.ca.us.

Attachments: 5/11/2004 Consolidation of Municipal Elections/Sierra Madre City Election Schedules – Los Angeles County

ATTACHMENT F



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CALIFORNIA

L.A. County May Stick With InkaVote Ballots

Some voters report problems, but registrar cites high cost of switching to e-voting.

By Stuart Pfeifer, Times Staff Writer

Los Angeles County may continue to use its temporary InkaVote balloting system for several more elections, despite complaints from some voters that the system is difficult to use and evidence that it's less accurate than touch-screen machines.

The InkaVote system was purchased to help the county make the transition from punch-card ballots — banned after the 2000 presidential election — to touch-screen machines.

The Board of Supervisors initially intended for InkaVote to be used until 2006 to give the county time to purchase an electronic voting system, which could cost as much as \$115 million.

But Registrar Conny B. McCormack said InkaVote might stay in use for several years beyond 2006 because county officials do not want to rush into purchasing a new system.

The InkaVote machines met with mixed reaction from voters both Tuesday and in the March primary.

San Pedro resident Doris Kennedy said she nearly submitted a blank ballot Tuesday before discovering that the pen at her polling place was out of ink. She tried a second pen, but it marked only a few of her choices. Although she caught the mistakes, Kennedy said she worries other voters might not have.

In the March primary election, Los Angeles County



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voters were more than twice as likely as voters in the state's 14 electronic-voting counties to submit ballots without a choice on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's financial recovery bond, Proposition 57. In Los Angeles, 6.8% of voters did not vote on the measure; ballots without votes on that issue averaged 3.3% in the e-voting counties.

On Tuesday, about 1.6% of the ballots cast on InkaVote machines — more than 35,000 ballots — did not include a vote for president, McCormack said. By comparison, 0.43% of voters didn't record a vote for president on several touch-screen machines set up for early voting.

McCormack conceded that the touch-screen machines do a better job of reducing so-called under-votes. Those machines flash a reminder to voters if they did not vote in a race and allow voters to go back to complete their ballots before recording the choices.

With the InkaVote system, voters insert the tip of a pen into tiny holes adjacent to names of their chosen candidates, leaving an ink spot on their ballot cards. Unless voters check their ballots to make sure the pen marked their choices, it's possible for them to not make choices in some — or all — of the races.

"Clearly InkaVote is harder to use," McCormack said. "But is InkaVote impossible to use? No."

Still, McCormack said she believes that the machines are overall highly accurate and that voters are getting used to them.

"Every voting system you put in, it's going to have a vocal minority of critics.... We had three million voters and we had a handful of complaints like this," she said. "I feel very confident that our system is accurate."

Poll workers were trained to advise voters to make sure they marked their ballots properly. The county also spent \$1.1 million of federal money on a preelection advertising campaign that featured a Dalmatian puppy and the slogan "Got dots?" to remind voters to check their ballots before dropping them in ballot boxes.

Theodore Campbell, an 81-year-old retired pilot from North Hollywood, said he had no problem casting his ballot. He said he spent about four minutes marking his choices, checked the ballot to make sure it was marked properly and then dropped it in the ballot box.

He had this advice for McCormack: "Keep the same one going.... We don't need electronic or anything ingenious. For old fogies like me, it's harder to learn to do something new."

**CALIFORNIA
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But Kennedy, the San Pedro voter, thinks InkaVote should go.

"I think it's a rotten system," said Kennedy, a retired high school principal. As for her mishaps, she added: "If it happened to me, it could have happened to anyone."

Supervisor Mike Antonovich said he shares some concerns about InkaVote.

"My problem with the device is that ... you had to do it more than once. You had to do it sometimes three times to make that mark."

He said that he experienced problems with the ballots when he voted on Tuesday and had to re-ink his ballot a couple of times. "I always check. My wife always checks," he said.

Elections officials in California must meet a series of federal and state requirements for voting systems by 2006. Touch-screen machines need to produce paper receipts for voters to review before casting their ballots. With ink-based systems such as InkaVote, elections officials would need to have scanners at all polling places so voters could be sure their ballots were valid before they left the polling place.

McCormack said she would ask the Board of Supervisors in January to decide her next step. The county will likely decide between two options: spending about \$20 million to upgrade InkaVote so it meets federal standards by 2006 or buying a touch-screen voting system at a cost of up to \$115 million.

Eventually, McCormack said, the county probably will purchase some type of electronic voting system, but the state has not yet certified an e-voting system that produces printed receipts. McCormack said she is leery about spending millions on a system that might need to be modified.

"That's not small change," she said. "And we're closing hospitals in Los Angeles County."

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ATTACHMENT G



The City of Long Beach

BEVERLY O'NEILL, MAYOR

November 3, 2004

The Honorable Don Knabe
Los Angeles County 4th District Supervisor
822 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: SB 1730 (Johnson) Impacts on the City of Long Beach Election Dates

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

SB 1730 (Johnson), enacted on September 27, 2004, changes 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. Beginning with our June 2006, citywide election, SB 1730 will force the City and County to conduct a "risk laden" concurrent election (i.e., when two elections are held by two different jurisdictions on the same date, but with separate voting stations, sample ballots, precinct ballots, absentee ballots, precinct boards, precinct supplies and ballot boxes, etc.)

On a positive note, however, SB 1730 creates the unique opportunity for the City and the County to successfully plan for a consolidated election, if we act now. With good planning, including the use of modern elections technology, we can dramatically increase voter turnout, reduce or share elections costs, and significantly enhance the ease of voting in federal, state and local elections in Los Angeles County.

While your current Board policy does not allow cities to consolidate their elections (be on the same ballot) on the countywide ballot, I firmly believe that the time has come to revisit this policy with the aim of allowing voters the opportunity to vote for federal, state and local candidates on one ballot. As a city of almost a ½ million we need to reassess our election procedures with the actions of SB 1730. Such an aim would allow us to expedite and maximize the use of available federal and state funds for the improvement our County voting system.

The current policy of encouraging cities in our County to migrate city elections in odd-calendar years does not improve voter turnout, reduce costs, or enhance ease of voting. Rather, such a policy only promotes the continued erosion of participation at the local level to unacceptable and exceedingly low levels.

Supervisor Don Knabe

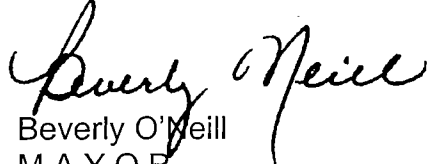
November 3, 2004

Page 2

This is just an introductory letter to begin the dialogue to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by SB 1730. By working together, I am confident that we can develop a strategy to create an election system that will provide our voters with the opportunity to significantly engage democracy at local government level in Los Angeles County for many years to come.

I'll call you early in November on this.

Sincerely,



Beverly O'Neill
MAYOR

ATTACHMENT H

Mayor's SB 1730 Talking Points

Problem: With enactment of SB 1730, the statewide primary election will fall on the same date as the June 6, 2006, run-off election for Mayor of the City of Long Beach. Given that the County "ink a vote" voting system does not have the capacity to offer the City a consolidated election, the City and County will be forced into a risk laden "concurrent election" mode (i.e., when two elections are held by two different jurisdictions on the same date, but with separate voting stations, sample ballots, precinct ballots, absentee ballots, precinct boards, precinct supplies and ballot boxes, etc.).

The problems associated with concurrent elections were well documented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in May 2004. Concurrent elections caused concern, increased costs, and other well reported problems in the City's 1994 and 1998 run-off elections. There is no desire to repeat these scenarios.

Objectives:

1. Request the County Registrar to create a City-County Project Team to produce a voter-friendly and successful concurrent election in June 2006, and/or in alternative;
2. That the City purchase, lease or rent a modern voting system for the April and June 2006 with a pass thru of federal and State funding for new voting systems by the County of Los Angeles.

Our position is that the City must be an equal partner in the planning of the June run-off election within the City of Long Beach voting jurisdictions. It is our position that Long Beach voters should not be required to vote on two incompatible voting systems, in separate booths, and with separate absentee voting processes without accountability and responsibility for a successful election being assigned to the County and the City.

City Long Beach Recommendations:

- Honest commitment to a fresh and open perspective to the possibility of establishment of a County-City Project Team and discussion of the "regional roll-out approach." This also may include solicitation of community input.
- At a minimum the Project Team must be charged with responsibility for the following key planning tasks:
 - Verification and certification of precinct boundaries and street indexes.
 - Establishment of consolidated precincts based on ballot groupings
 - Establishment of supply-ballot pick-up and drop-off locations.
 - Establishment of polling locations in April and carryover to June.
 - Recruitment and training of poll workers.
 - Mailing of sample ballots.
 - Processing of City-County absentee ballot applications, permanent absentee voters, and provisional voters.
- County support for the sharing of federal and State voting system modernization funds that will allow the City and County to conduct a successful concurrent election using modern voting technology.