



City of Long Beach

**R-7**

Office of Robert Garcia  
Councilmember, First District

**Date:** May 8, 2012

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District *RG*  
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*  
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *SN*

**Subject:** Long Beach Election Cycle Charter Amendment

**Background:**

Currently, Long Beach holds elections every two years at April and June, while the State holds elections every two years at June and November. In the past, some residents and elected officials have raised the idea of aligning our election cycle with the State schedule.

In November of 2010, the Elections Oversight Committee of the City of Long Beach considered adopting this policy in Long Beach. At that meeting, the City Clerk reported on the issue. Some California cities align their election cycles with the State's, and combine many elections operations with County and State operations, resulting in a monetary saving to the cities, but with other possible disadvantages, as reported by the Clerk. The Clerk noted that the County was not currently able to consolidate operations with the City's operations, but is expected to be able to in the future. There are also ways to align the election cycles without combining operations. The EOC Committee voted to hold the item for further consideration at a future time.

With the City continuing to seek cost-saving measures and expand citizen participation, there is no reason to delay more conclusive examination of this policy. The Council, acting as the full Charter Amendment Committee, should carefully revisit city and state election alignment.

That discussion should also include a full briefing from the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

**Recommendation:** Request that a meeting of the Charter Amendment Committee be scheduled to consider a ballot measure for 2012 moving city elections to align with the State cycle of June/November

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.