



CITY OF LONG BEACH

CITY CLERK

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December 21, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

SUBJECT: CANVASS AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RETURNS

DISCUSSION

Long Beach Municipal Code Section 1.21.010 dictates that the canvass of each municipal election held in the city be made by the City Clerk within 14 days after the date of the election. The canvass process requires that the City Clerk Department follow a sequential and detailed procedure when counting ballots. In addition to counting ballots, the City Clerk must account for all ballots issued.

Changes in polling place procedures, and increases in absentee and provisional balloting has had an effect on post election measures that City Clerk staff feels may cause delays in canvassing for citywide elections. In order to avoid the pressure of this short deadline, the City Clerk hereby requests an extension of the current canvass deadline from 14 days to 21 days following municipal elections.

Amendment of Long Beach Municipal Code Section 1.21.010 will not affect Long Beach City Charter Sections 1901 and 2209, and will allow time for certification of election results by City Council and for candidates to assume office on the third Tuesday in July, and the third Monday in July, respectively, for the Long Beach Unified School District candidates.

City Clerk staff has discussed this issue with Long Beach Community College staff to see how this extension would affect the seating of their newly elected officers who are sworn in on the first Tuesday in May. We have been assured by the Director of Support Services, through his conversation with LBCCD counsel, that this issue can be addressed through the resolution process.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
December 21, 2004
Page 2

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Request City Attorney to amend Ordinance C-7380 (Long Beach Municipal Code Section 1.21.010) to extend the canvass of each municipal election held in the City from 14 days to 21 days.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Herrera', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LARRY HERRERA
CITY CLERK