

2006 ELECTIONS PLAN



CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT
2006 ELECTIONS PLAN

To enhance the transparency and integrity of City elections processes, increase voter independence and involvement in City elections, and provide information to residents on how and where to vote.

2006 ELECTIONS PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the second Elections Plan prepared by the City Clerk Department. This Department will continue to submit Elections Plans to the City Council and Elections Oversight Committee at the opening of each election cycle. As stated in the 2004-2006 Elections Plan (EP), the environment around elections continues to change. The Secretary of State's decisions regarding voting systems, and Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's efforts to procure a new voting system are still valid concerns to this Department. In addition, SB 1730, signed into law by the Governor, and effective January 1, 2005, will move the statewide primary from the 1st Tuesday in March of even years to the 1st Tuesday following the 1st Monday in June of even years, the same date as the City's General Municipal Election.

This plan lists strategies that the Election Division intends to execute as part of the 2006 Primary Nominating and General Municipal Elections cycle, and is submitted for review to the City Council and Elections Oversight Committee to either confirm our direction or offer other suggestions. Upon receipt and approval by the City Council, the strategies will be pursued. You will see several strategies carried over from the 2004-2006 EP. These are issues apparent in all elections, and keep you informed of our cognizance to the issues and our plans for dealing with them. Two strategies dealing with office space issues and the Voter Information Management System have been removed from the 2006 EP as the issues have been resolved and are no longer viable.

Our collective and ongoing goals:

- *To enhance the transparency and integrity of City elections processes, increase voter independence and involvement in City elections, and provide information to residents on how and where to vote.*
- *To adapt quickly to good ideas to improve the process and continue to lead efforts to provide innovations that serve the voters.*
- *To regenerate and maintain the public's confidence in an accurate, fair, and consistent election result.*

This plan presents our strategies under five main subsections:

- *Elections Administration*
- *Poll Worker Recruitment and Training*
- *Voter Education and Outreach*
- *Candidate Processing and Support*
- *Election Day Operations.*

We thank the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager for supporting a key aspect of Election Day operations – the City Employee Poll Worker Program. We also thank City Clerk staff for their time and dedication to the development and successful implementation of the proposed strategies.

Upon approval of the 2006 EP, it will be distributed to interested organizations and individuals in our City.

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OUR TEAM

City Clerk staff recognizes the reasons and the need to come together to accomplish the goals and objectives of this Plan. We are mutually dependent on one another's experience, abilities, and commitment to accomplish these mutual objectives. All members of the City Clerk team have an important role in the success of City elections.

WHAT WE DO

The duties of the Election Division include the administration of elections for the City, Long Beach Unified School District, and Long Beach Community College District. The division currently consists of three full-time employees and up to 10 temporary, seasonal employees.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Preparation of the annual election budget;
- Development and administration of voter education and outreach programs;
- Verification, review, and use of data provided by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC) regarding voter registration and signature files, precinct boundaries, and the jurisdictional boundaries of City, School, and Community College elected offices;
- Design and distribution of sample ballots for printing in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Cambodian/Khmer, Vietnamese;
- Administration of the Voter Information Management Systems (VIMS), including election setup (establishment of jurisdiction/district/precinct boundaries), the candidate nomination process, polling place and poll worker recruitment, and absentee ballot processing;
- Administration of the Electronic Filing System (EFS) for the filing of campaign statements;
- Administration of Conflict of Interest program;
- Design and testing of ballot layout for the "central count" tally system;
- Conduct of the 21-day official canvass of election returns;
- Administration of the absentee/mail ballot process, including mailing of absentee ballot within 24 hours of receipt of application, and signature verification for returned voted absentee ballots;
- Recruitment of polling places, precinct workers, and election day field supervisors, including development of training materials;
- Coordination of precinct supplies and election central activities;
- Coordination of public counter and Internet information services;
- Tracking and analysis of federal, state, and local laws that effect elections, including campaign finance, conflicts of interest, redistricting, etc., that become operative in January 2005 and 2006;
- Monitoring legislation that may have a direct effect on City of Long Beach elections, campaign finance laws, conflict of interest, lobbying, etc.

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OUR CHALLENGES

As indicated in the 2004 EP, the following challenges will also be important in 2006:

- Integration and differentiation of HAVA provisions and the California Voters' Bill of Rights;
- Selection of accessible and suitable polling locations;
- Effective communication to City voters of where and how to vote;
- Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act non-English language requirements;
- Continued education and training in State election law changes;
- Training for candidate use of the Campaign Finance Electronic Filing System (EFS);
- Managing the increasing costs of conducting elections;
- Recruiting a sufficient number of poll workers (approximately 1200 per election).

OUR STRATEGIES

Strategy sets our direction and it delineates what activities we will and will not pursue. In addition, strategy determines our organizational structure and processes.

To address the needs of our community, we have adopted a fundamental strategy. First to reallocate historical and existing levels of budget resources to functions most in need and that have the biggest payoffs; second, to leverage budget savings to achieve our service goals and objectives. In turn, we have strived to align structure and processes with employee performance goals.

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ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

STRATEGY 1: BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING

Goal: To accurately estimate and report the cost of municipal elections, including identification of cost saving recommendations that strengthen the voting process and to assess costs associated to the different jurisdictions that consolidate with Long Beach elections.

Objective: Utilize the City's financial management system to forecast and monitor elections costs and revenues.

Outcome Criteria: Budgeted costs are closer to actual costs to preserve General Fund appropriations at beginning of fiscal year. Costs of a concurrent election with Los Angeles County may affect outcome.

STRATEGY 2: POLL LOCATIONS

Goal: To gradually migrate existing polling locations to Neighborhood Voting Centers (NVCs) from private residences and businesses.

Objective: In concert with the RRCC, identify 35 NVC locations that are visible and accessible, consolidate precincts, and communicate the new locations to affected voters.

Outcome Criteria: [1] Community acceptance; [2] Reduction in private polling locations and increase in use of well situated City facilities; [3] Selection of locations that are ADA accessible; [4] Voter notification of poll locations via sample ballot and print media; and [5] Reduction of poll costs.

Comment: Election Code 12280 provides that when designating polling places, the elections official shall undertake necessary measures in the locating of polling places to ensure that polling places meet the guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of State for accessibility by the physically handicapped. This requirement and several provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) may result in the phase out of many familiar privately owned locations over the next several years. The increasing trend in voting by mail supports the creation of NVCs. For the April 2004 Primary Nominating Election, eight of the 68 poll locations were NVCs. Thirty-eight polling locations in Long Beach were NVCs for the Statewide General Election in November 2004.

The elections official shall undertake necessary measures in the locating of polling places to ensure that polling places meet the guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of State for accessibility by the physically handicapped.

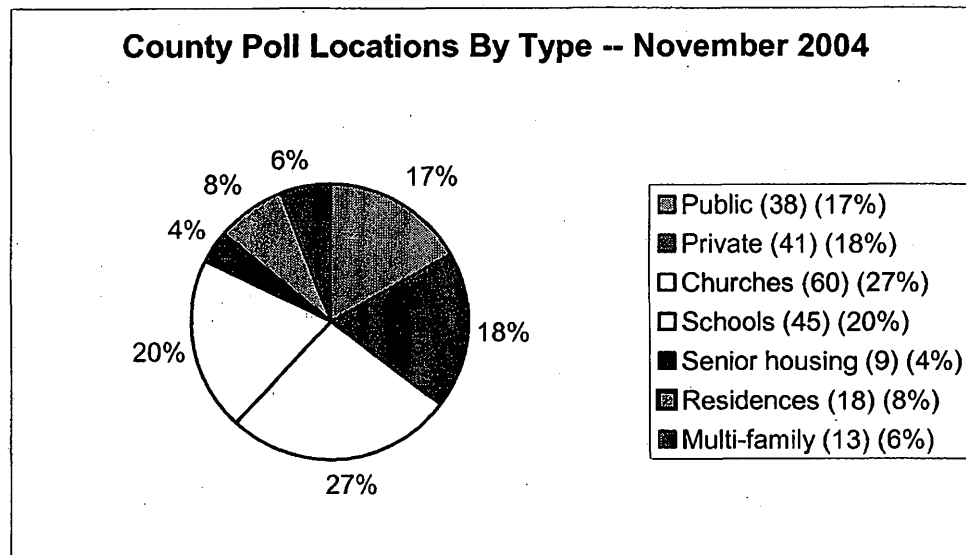
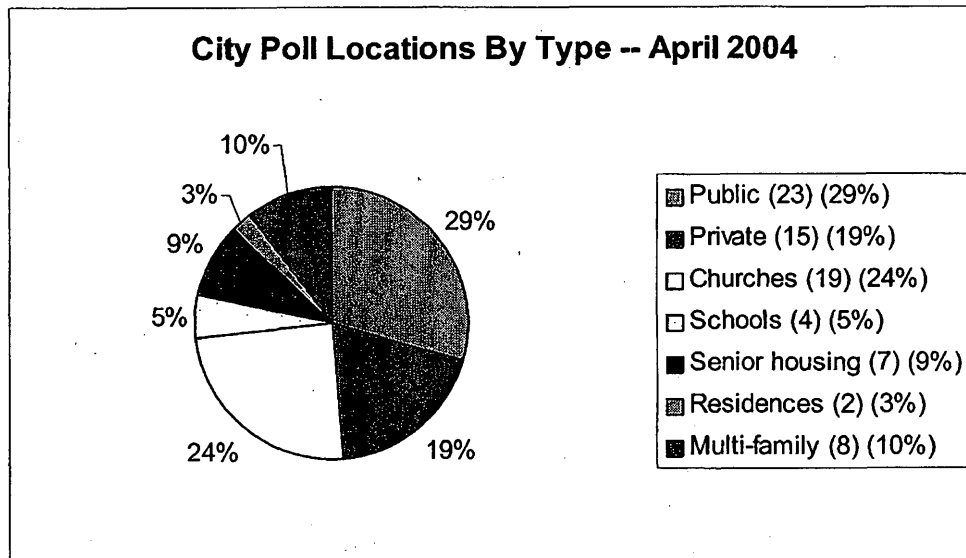
Polling locations for future elections will be coordinated with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in order for our voters to have consistency in voting locations between the April and June Elections. It projected that there will be approximately 250 polling locations in Long Beach in 2006.

The following charts show the types of facilities used by the City and by the County as polling places in 2004. Public facilities and places of worship continue to provide the best polling

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facilities especially when used as NVCs, as they are ADA accessible and provide sufficient space and parking.

Figure 1: City and County Poll Locations By Type – 2004



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STRATEGY 3: CONTRACTING OUT

Goal: To create an optimal relationship with the City's election consultant that will assist in leveraging the City's acquired elections technology with the aim of strengthening the integrity of the elections process.

Objective: Development of a project plan detailing City and consultant responsibilities according to key election calendar milestone dates.

Comment: Our current consultant/vendor has assisted the City of Long Beach since 1956. For the 2004 election, this vendor acquired additional equipment to assist us with the preparation and mailing of absentee ballots.

Outcome Criteria: Outsourcing of certain election functions increases the efficiency of election staff by allowing us to concentrate on larger issues.

STRATEGY 4: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Goal: Utilization of GIS to ensure the accurate placement of registered voters are within the correct precincts and districts within the respective jurisdictions of the City, LBUSD, and LBCCD.

Objective: Completion of a service agreement with the GIS Division of the Technology Services Department for boundary verification support in the fall of 2005.

Outcome Criteria: [1] Identification of anomalies and coordination of corrective actions with the RRCC; and [2] Training of staff to increase knowledge and skill in using GIS technology as an elections planning tool.

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STRATEGY 5: U.S. POSTAL SERVICE COORDINATION

Goal: To promote the timely delivery of sample ballot pamphlets and absentee ballots to voters.

Objective: Contact the Long Beach Postmaster requesting them to notify their branch managers to watch for and to ensure that election related mail enters the postal stream immediately.

Outcome Criteria: Mailing of Sample Ballot Pamphlets 40 to 30 days before Election Day. If the City consolidates with the County for the June runoff election, sample ballot mailing could be delayed by as much as 10 days.

STRATEGY 6: SAMPLE BALLOT BOOKLET

Goal: To allow City departments to place ads in the sample ballot booklet in the event we have blank pages to work with.

Objective: Contact City departments to inquire as to their interest in advertising in the sample ballot booklet in the event of blank page space.

Outcome Criteria: Additional means of notifying public of City programs (e.g., hazardous materials roundup, upcoming events, and services).

Allow City departments to utilize blank pages in the sample ballot as an additional means of notifying the public of City programs.

STRATEGY 7: COMMUNICATION WITH CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Goal: Enhancement of services between the Secretary of State and municipal government.

Objective: Continued communication with the SOS either independently or through the City Clerks Association of California regarding innovations at the municipal level, and transparent government at local expense (i.e., streaming video, electronic campaign statement filing).

Outcome Criteria: Collaborative relationship between CCAC and SOS, integration of local programs and services with the mission of the SOS, and legislative proposals for efficient/effective municipal elections.

STRATEGY 8: FILING OF CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS BY CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES

Goal: No tolerance policy on the late filing of campaign statements and Statements of Economic Interests.

Objective: Early courtesy notification to all candidates and committees of filing deadlines, and coordinate enforcement with City Attorney.

Objective Criteria: Considerable staff time is spent corresponding with filers regarding campaign statements and Statements of Economic Interest that are filed after the deadlines. As

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the filing officer, we have an obligation to notify late filers of a missed filing deadline; however we do not have an obligation to notify filers of an upcoming deadline, as it is their obligation to know their filing requirements. The FPPC has suggested guidelines for notifying filers of missed filing deadlines, which include notifying the filer in writing of the potential fines involved by missing the deadline and to set a specific date that the document is due. If the document is not received by this specified due date, the fine must be imposed, they are referred to the City Attorney Department for enforcement.

POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

STRATEGY 9: POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT & ADOPT-A-POLL PROGRAM

Goals: A. Recruit and train reliable poll workers with the aim of increasing their productivity to mitigate the risk of polling location disruptions or operational problems. Future concurrent elections will force us to discontinue our practice of consolidating precincts in large groups, in order to match the RRCC's polling place locations for both April and June elections. Since their consolidated precincts are smaller than ours, the number of polling locations will increase (See Strategy 2) thereby necessitating the need for more poll workers. Projected cost increases in this area by 8 percent to 10 percent.

B. Offer an Adopt-A-Poll Program to interested persons that provide them with the option of voluntarily donating their poll worker stipends to non-profit organizations or towards a reduction in elections costs borne by the General Fund.

C. Recruit and train inspectors to enable them to oversee up to two polls at an NVC (special standalone elections only).

Objectives: [1] Contract the poll worker training portion to an outside vendor in order to allow election staff to remain in the office and prepare for the election; [2] Continue policy of paying poll workers \$25 for attending a training class; and [3] Development of an Adopt-A-Poll Brochure for distribution to interested persons.

Comment: The City Clerk FY 06 budget will reflect this increase. Additionally, as our poll worker base continues to shrink and because of the increase in polling locations for 2006, a considerable strain may be placed on the poll worker pool. In the event of a concurrent election, this strategy may be coordinated with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

Our poll worker base continues to shrink.

STRATEGY 10: STUDENT POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT

Goal: To recruit eligible high school seniors to work at polling places for the Primary and General elections.

Objective: To seek access to high school seniors through government education classes.

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Comment: Because of graduations taking place in June, it may be difficult to recruit students for June elections. AB 1097, if passed by the legislature, will allow high school juniors who meet certain criteria to participate as poll workers.

Outcome Criteria: Placement of one student at each polling place in accordance with State law and City Clerk placement criteria. In the event of a concurrent election, this strategy may be coordinated with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

STRATEGY 11: EMPLOYEE POLL WORKER PROGRAM

Goal: To have City employees serve as precinct inspectors and supervisory field troubleshooters on Election Day.

Objective: Seek City Manager approval for placement of at least one City employee in each polling place.

Comment: With the increase in polling locations for 2006, and as the number of poll workers continues to dwindle, it will be imperative to have an active pool of employee poll workers trained and ready to go.

STRATEGY 12: CROSS TRAINING OF STAFF

Goal: To cross train full time City Clerk and City staff to assist with "core" election-related duties to strengthen elections planning, logistics, and execution functions.

Objective: [1] Request that City Clerk supported committees and commissions suspend meetings April 1 through April 15, 2006, and June 1 to June 15 (depending on runoff); [2] Request City Manager support to recruit, train, and assign 250 City employees as polling place inspectors for the April and June elections; and [3] Work with the City Manager and Human Resources Department to identify City employees who may not be able to do their regular duties due to industrial injury and who may be well suited to work for the Elections Division during the election cycle.

Outcome Criteria: City staff ready to go when called upon.

STRATEGY 13: STREAMING VIDEO

Goal: Utilize digital video technology to distribute elections related information via the Internet (e.g., poll worker training, how to use the voting system).

Objective: To use streaming video for poll worker training, candidate statements, and voter outreach. This is especially important for our vision/hearing-impaired voters.

Outcome Criteria: Accessible streaming video from City Clerk website.

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STRATEGY 14: POLL WORKER MANUAL

Goal: Creation of a Poll Worker Manual to cover all policies and procedures for polling place operations.

Objective: To place on our web page and to use along with poll worker training. In addition to hands-on training, our poll workers receive three documents to read to familiarize themselves with polling place procedures. Two of these documents, "Inspector's Guide & Checklist," and "What To Do If . . ." are being combined into the Poll Worker Manual.

VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

STRATEGY 15: MINORITY LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Goal: Continued compliance with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the California Elections Code by offering voting materials to voters with limited English proficiency in the required languages, and for the recruitment of bilingual poll workers in key polling locations.

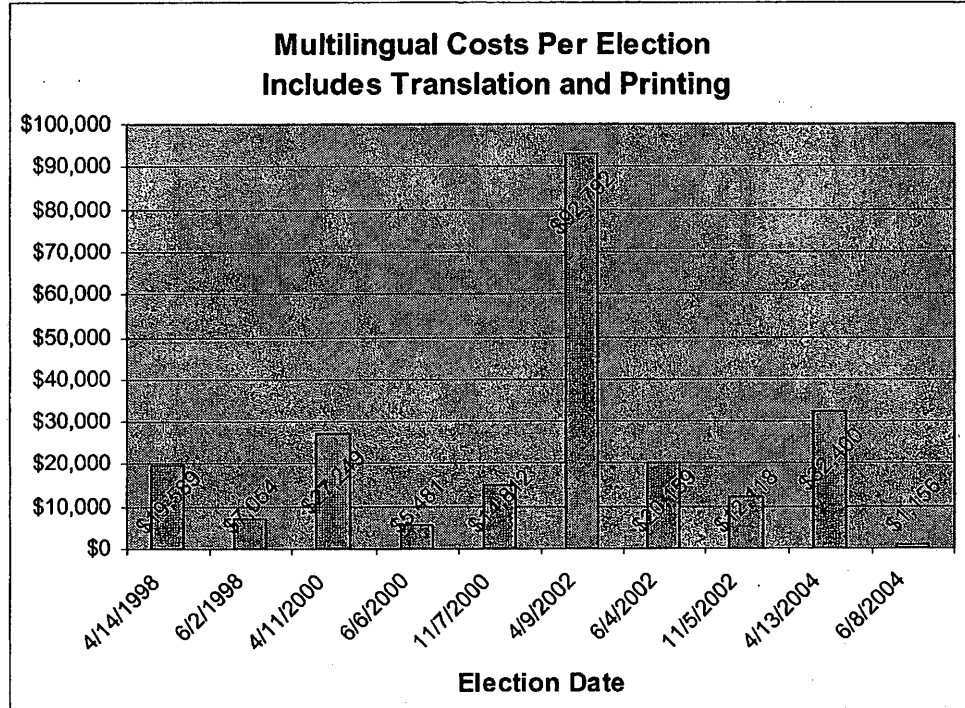
Objective: To reach out to our minority language voting population to inform them of voting locations and to offer assistance as needed in polling locations.

The City currently translates sample ballot material into five languages, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer, and Tagalog.

Comment: In 2002, candidates' statements for the citywide offices were translated into Spanish, Tagalog, Khmer and Vietnamese. Candidate statements for Council District 1 candidates were translated into Spanish, Tagalog and Khmer. Statements for Council Districts 7 and 9 candidates were translated into Spanish, Tagalog, Khmer and Vietnamese. No translation was required by the VRA in Districts 3 and 5. A candidate is not required to pay for the cost of translating his/her candidate statement into any foreign language required pursuant to federal and/or state law. However, candidates are required to pay for the cost of printing their candidate statement in a foreign language in the sample ballot pamphlet if they choose. Translated sample ballot booklets are available upon request.

Figure 2. Historical Multilingual Translation Costs 1998-2004

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STRATEGY 16: INTERNET ACCESS TO VOTING INFORMATION

Goal: To provide voters with easy access to a user-friendly web page that provides relevant election information.

Objective: Placement of the following on the Election web page: [1] Frequently Asked Questions and fact sheets for candidates, poll workers, and voters regarding elections; [2] Calendar and information for the April 11, 2006 Primary Nominating Election (PNE); [3] Polling place locator with map, photo and sample ballot (address driven); [4] On-line campaign filing and information retrieval; [5] Links to Secretary of State, RRCC, Attorney General, and Fair Political Practices Commission; and [6] On-line applications for absentee ballot, poll worker, and polling place volunteers. (Items 3 and 6 will be translated into the five required languages.)

Outcome Criteria: Increased outreach to our non-English speaking population.

STRATEGY 17: MEDIA RELATIONS

Goal: To continue good working relationships with the local media, independently and through the City's Public Information Officer, as a means of notifying the public of election-related issues.

Objectives: Placement of Public Service Announcements and press releases regarding poll worker and polling place recruitment, candidate nomination period, and early voting via Long Beach Channel 8, the WAVE Newsletter, Neighbor-News (as published by Neighborhood Resource Center), and local daily and weekly newspapers, and on the City's web page as described in Strategy #13.

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STRATEGY 18: VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Goal: To increase voter awareness, participation, and education, aimed at making sure ballots are properly cast.

Objective: Advise City community associations of our availability to make presentations related to voter education and the intricacies of preparing for an election.

Comment: For 2006, the City Clerk Department will work with an intern to prepare a presentation as indicated above for community groups. We will contact the community groups requesting placement on their agendas for this presentation.

STRATEGY 19: SB 1050 (BOWEN) - ELECTIONS, WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

Goal: Support of this bill that provides that a ballot for a qualified write-in candidate shall be counted if it is written in the blank space provided and that the failure of a voter to mark the voting space next to the write-in space shall not preclude the ballot from being counted if the intent of the voter can be determined.

Objective: Letter of support to Governor Schwarzenegger for the passage of this legislation.

Comment: Donna Frye was a qualified write-in candidate for mayor in the city of San Diego in the November 2004 General Election. When the official canvass of election results was completed, it showed Frye finishing second to incumbent mayor Dick Murphy by 2,108 votes. A recount, requested by media organizations and Frye supporters, uncovered a total of 5,551 ballots in which voters wrote-in Frye's name on the ballot in the correct location but did not fill in the bubble next to the write-in space. Had those ballots been counted for Frye, she would have won the election by 3,443 votes. However, the registrar of voters in San Diego County refused to count those votes, citing state law that requires the bubble to be filled-in in order for a write-in vote to count. As municipal elections contests involve closer margins of victory, a policy of counting on the basis of voter intent rather than administrative convenience should be adopted.

CANDIDATE PROCESSING AND SUPPORT

STRATEGY 20: CANDIDATE HANDBOOK AND ORIENTATION

Goal: Provide a handbook and orientation session for candidates.

Objective: Preparation of candidate handbook in an easy to read format that includes necessary items for candidates to conduct a successful campaign. The handbook highlights provisions of the Long Beach City Charter, Long Beach Municipal Code, California Elections Code and the California Government Code regarding campaigning.

Comment: Candidate orientation is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2005, at

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10 a.m. in the Council Chamber (opening day of the nomination period). Candidates will receive a candidate handbook that includes forms, calendar, and other pertinent information, and an orientation by the City Clerk Department. Items to be discussed include nomination and candidate statement guidelines, Statement of Economic Interests forms, including our new, strict enforcement policy for late filings, the Long Beach Campaign Reform Act, campaign disclosure requirements, online filing of campaign disclosure forms, political sign guidelines and placement, electioneering laws, and guidelines for absentee ballot applications.

The candidate handbook is free to candidates, campaign managers and the media. It is important to understand the seriousness of the handbook and the expense incurred for its preparation. The California Elections Code states that all forms required for nomination be distributed without charge to all candidates applying for them.

Candidate orientation is scheduled for Monday, December 19. Candidates will receive a handbook with misc. materials and regulations. The nomination period opens December 19, 2005, and closes January 13, 2006.

STRATEGY 21: STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST - FORM 700

Goal: To phase out the distribution of blank hard copies of Statement of Economic Interest Form 700 to filers in favor of filers completing the form on-line.

Objective: Work with Technology Services to procure a system that will allow City Clerk staff to log, file and maintain electronic copies of Statement of Economic Interest forms.

Outcome Criteria: Since filers need only complete and print out specific schedules within the form, this strategy will save costs associated with photocopying and data entry.

STRATEGY 22: DEPOSIT FOR REMOVAL OF CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Goal: For candidates to be responsible for campaign signs illegally placed in public rights of way.

Objective: Charge all candidates (including LBUSD and LBCCD candidates) a \$100 deposit for removal of campaign signs in public rights of way (including street lights and utility poles).

Comment: In the April 2004 election, considerable staff time was expended in the removal of campaign signs from public rights of way. Public Works crews collected 180 signs from public rights of way throughout the City during the week of April 9 through April 15 resulting in overtime costs for the Public Works Department.

Administrative Regulation AR8-6 outlines the procedures to be followed by City employees for the removal of illegal signs from public property.

Public Works crews collected 180 signs from public rights of way.

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STRATEGY 23: TRAINING BY FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC)

Goal: For candidates and treasurers to know and understand the correct procedures for completion of campaign statements.

Objective: FPPC provides training seminars for candidates and treasurers if the local agency can pay travel expenses and have at least 25 people in attendance. Seventeen cities will be conducting elections in the Spring of 2006. City Clerks in these cities will be contacted and their candidates and staffs will be invited to this training which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, 2005, in the Council Chamber.

ELECTION DAY OPERATIONS

STRATEGY 24: ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION PROCESSING

Goal: In reply to a valid absentee ballot application, mail out absentee ballots within 24 hours of application receipt.

Objective: In concert with the City's election consultant/vendor, City Clerk staff established a process that allows for expedited mailing of absentee ballots directly from the consultant's warehouse. This process proved successful, as we did not have to dedicate precious office space to store miscellaneous absentee supplies, or hire temporary employees for this function. This method will continue to be used for future elections.

STRATEGY 25: VOTE BY MAIL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Goal: To present for City Council consideration a process to conduct special standalone elections entirely by mail.

Comment: With the increased interest in voting by mail (See Figures 4 and 5), this goal may result in increased turnout. Elections Code Sections 4000 and 4004 provide the City Council with authority to execute this policy.

In April 2002, 28,856 absentee ballots were requested as compared to 16,933 requested in April 1998, an increase of 59 percent.

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Figure 3. Voter Turnout Trends - Polls v. Absentee 1998-2004

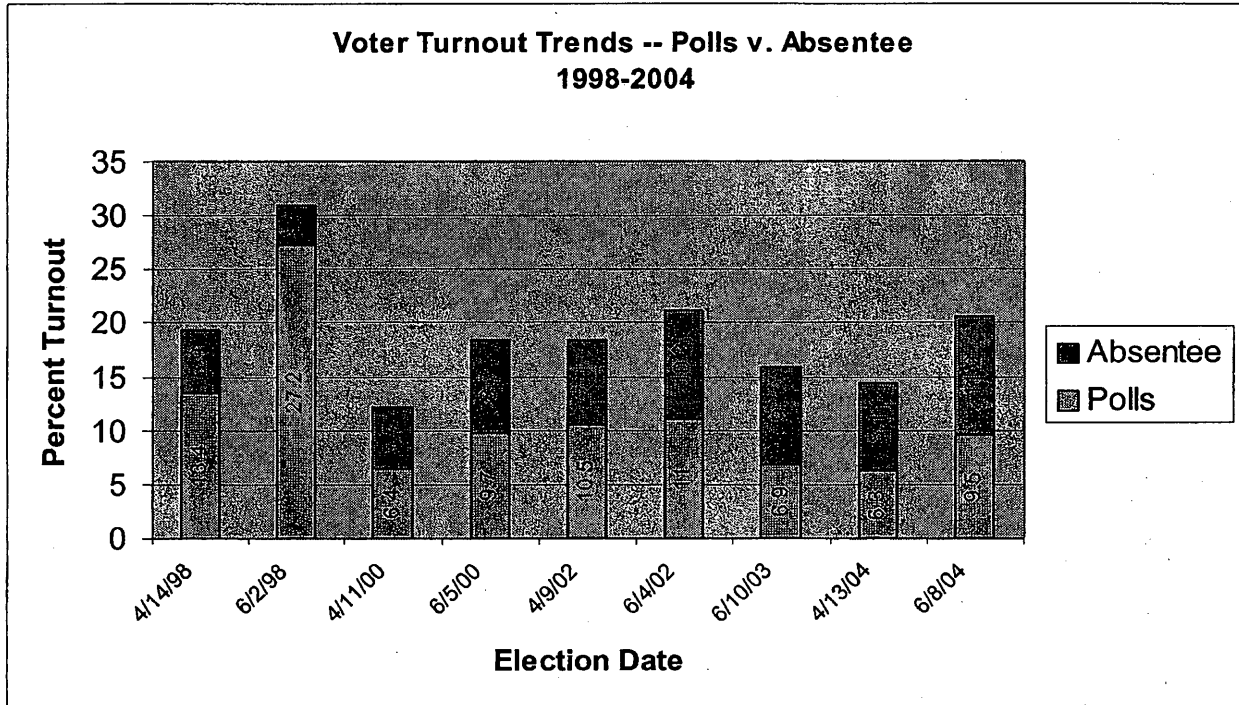
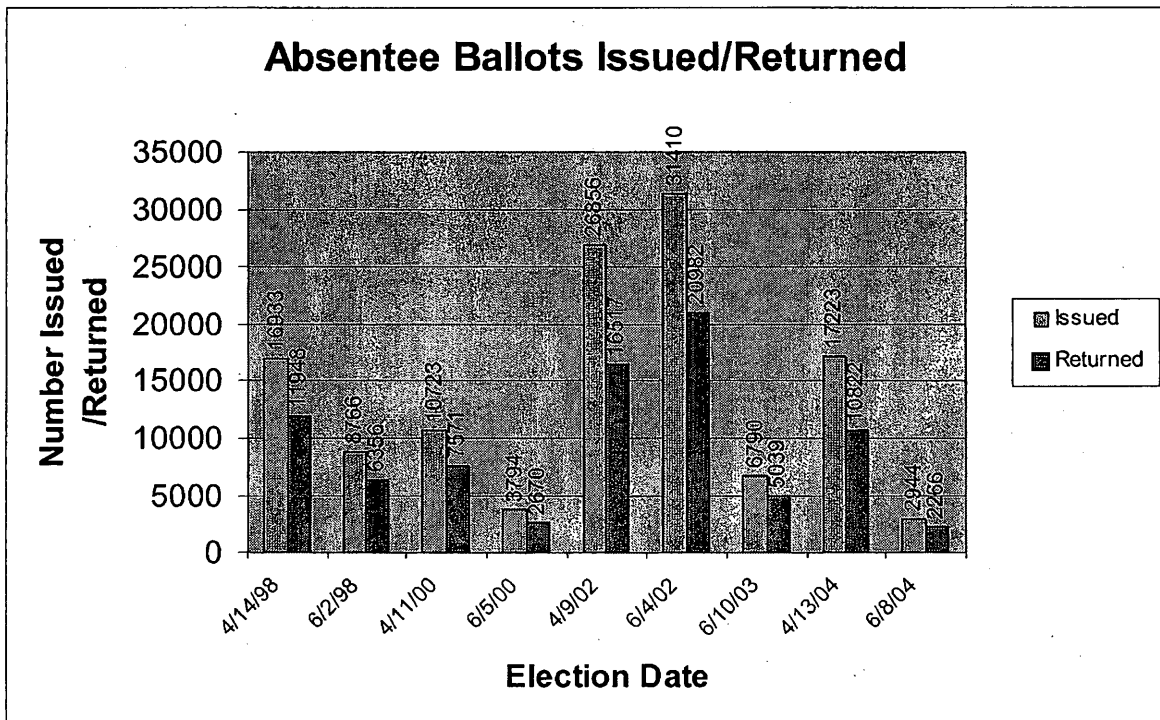


Figure 4. Trend in Requested and Returned Absentee Ballots.
(Average Rate of Return is 70%)



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STRATEGY 26: ELECTION DAY FIELD SUPERVISORS & RELOCATION OF CENTRAL COLLECTIONS AND BALLOT COUNT LOCATION FROM CITY HALL TO A CENTRALLY LOCATED FACILITY IN THE CITY

Goals: A. Continued employment of Election Day Field Supervisors as problem solvers on Election Day.

B. Relocation of the precinct supply check-in centers and the central counting center to Long Beach Energy, which is a centrally located facility within the City for future elections.

Objective: Recruit and train 20-25 field supervisors to provide guidance to poll inspectors and resolve issues that may arise at the polls.

Comment: Central counting and check in were successfully conducted at Long Beach Energy for the April 2004 PNE and we will continue to request this facility for future election use. This strategy will be removed from future EPs.

STRATEGY 27: VOTING SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Goal: To work with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC) to study methods by which Long Beach municipal voters can receive the benefit of systems purchased with Proposition 41 and HAVA funding.

Comment: The RRCC released an RFP on April 20, 2005, for enhancements to the Ink-A-Vote system. This enhancement is for a precinct-level ballot counting system that allows second chance voting per HAVA guidelines. Second chance voting allows a voter who under/over voted to be able to correct their ballot prior to casting. Per the RFP, proposals were due May 19, 2005, with a BOS hearing date of August 9. The system must be in place in time for the Statewide Primary on June 4, 2006. Should consolidation of our General Municipal (runoff) Election with the County occur, the costs associated with the procurement of this new system must be mitigated over time or by policy in order to avoid a spike in election costs for June, 2006.

The RRCC is currently pursuing a precinct-level ballot counting system for Los Angeles County.

Unless City funding is identified for procurement of a new voting system, the City of Long Beach must depend upon Los Angeles County for the realization of efficiencies that are available in modern voting systems that comply with federal and state voting, disability and language requirements.

Because of this, the City Clerk Department has formally requested information from election vendors certified by the California Secretary of State to submit information on their election systems to the City for possible purchase. Ways to offset this purchase are being considered, including Joint Powers Authorities with other agencies that conduct elections on dates other than April/June of even years.