

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2002

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO THE CALLING OF THE REGULAR MARCH 4, 2003, PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE PASADENA BOARD OF EDUCATION PRIMARY WITH SAID ELECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolutions:

- (1) A resolution calling a primary nominating election for the office of Mayor and for the offices of members of the City Council for Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 of the City of Pasadena, and consolidating with said election the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education Primary, Seats 2, 4 and 6, and authorizing the City Clerk to enter into a contract with PUSD for the City Clerk to provide election services to the School District.
- (2) A resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County to permit the Registrar of Voters of said County to render specified services to said City relating to the conduct of a consolidated City of Pasadena and Pasadena Board of Education primary nominating election on March 4, 2003 and, if necessary, a general municipal election to be held on April 15, 2003.
- (3) A resolution setting forth regulations relating to candidate statements for said primary and general municipal elections.

BACKGROUND:

Calling and Consolidating Election (First Resolution)

Section 1208 of the City Charter and the California Elections Code provides that elections be called by ordinance or resolution. Accordingly, the first resolution stipulates general information regarding the date of the primary nominating election, offices to be elected, the method by which candidates shall be selected, ballots, time of opening and closing polls, polling places and election officers, and the canvass to be conducted by the City Clerk. The date of the City primary nominating election is established by Section 1202 of the Charter.

Section 703 of the Charter provides for the primary nominating election of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to be held at the same time as the City primary nominating election. California Elections Code Sections 10400, et seq., permit the consolidation of elections, and the Pasadena Unified School District has requested consolidation as noted in its October 17, 2002 letter (Attachment 1).

Election Services (Second Resolution)

California Elections Code Section 10002 permits the County to provide election services to cities, if requested. This resolution is necessary to request services of the Registrar of Voters, from the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County. The services include County computer records identifying names and addresses of all eligible registered voters; precinct maps for consolidation of County precincts; verification of signatures on nomination papers and absent voter applications; precinct officer materials; and the formula for the allocation of costs involved among the appropriate entities in accordance with the California Education Code and other applicable provisions of law. The County provides such services and bills the City and School District their pro-rata share of costs.

Candidate Statements/Compliance with Voting Rights Act (Third Resolution)

The third resolution sets forth regulations pertaining to candidate statements for the primary and general municipal elections. Candidates will be required to pay a pro-rata share of costs associated with printing their candidate statements in English, and the City and School District will absorb translation costs in complying with the Voting Rights Act, including costs associated with printing candidate statements in Spanish in the sample ballot pamphlet.

In the past, based on 1990 Census data for the City of Pasadena and the School District area, Spanish and Chinese have qualified for translations and assistance. Because of Pasadena's high Latino population, it is the City's policy to print a bilingual English/Spanish sample ballot pamphlet and provide translations, upon request, in Chinese since this language meets the 1% criteria for doing a targeting method of complying with the Voting Rights Act. In November, the Registrar of Voters Office will supply municipal jurisdictions in Los Angeles County with minority language translation requirements based on detailed 2000 Census data. In the event additional languages are identified for minority language translations based on the 2000 Census data, this third resolution will be amended to add additional language translations.

Under the regulations set forth in the resolution, candidates will be required to pay a deposit for the actual costs of printing candidate statements in English. Based on current voter registration figures and a cost estimate by the election supplier, the proposed deposit amounts are \$250 for the district races, \$1,250 for the city-wide Mayoral race, and \$1,700 for the at-large PUSD races. If actual costs are lower or higher than the deposit, candidates will be refunded or invoiced the difference.

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For the general (run-off) election, candidates electing to have a statement printed may use the same statement or they may file a new statement. A new deposit in the respective amount above will be required to be filed with either a new statement for the general election or a written request directing the City Clerk to use the same statement, by the deadline of Thursday, March 6, 2003.

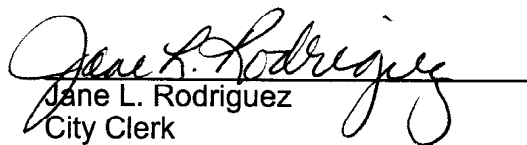
With only six weeks between the primary and general elections, it is crucial that candidate statements for the general election be filed by this deadline, in order to allow time for translations, proofreading, printing, affixing labels to the pamphlets, and still meet a legal requirement to have the pamphlets mailed at least three weeks in advance of the election.

The third resolution also requests the Secretary of State's Office to conduct a randomized alphabetical drawing on December 12, 2002, to determine the order of names on the primary election ballot, and a second drawing on March 5, 2003, to determine the order of names for the general election ballot, in the event a run-off election is required.


FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the total cost of the primary election will be approximately \$308,000, including costs for election supplies and services. This estimated figure may fluctuate based on various factors such as number of candidates, measures (if any) on the ballot, an increase in voter registration, and if there is a larger than expected demand to vote absentee. The Pasadena Unified School District will reimburse approximately 68% of the costs of the primary election (per a pro-rata formula established by the County). Funds for the City's share of election costs have been budgeted and recognized in the Elections Budget 263000.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane L. Rodriguez
City Clerk

Reviewed by: 10/23/02



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