

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
ADOPTING A PLAN TO CONSOLIDATE CITY ELECTIONS WITH
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA VOTER
PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT**

WHEREAS, in 2015 the state legislature passed the California Voter Participation Rights Act ("CVPRA," Cal. Elections Code §§ 14050 et. seq.), with the goal of increasing voter participation in local elections; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish that goal, the CVPRA consolidates local and statewide elections by prohibiting a political subdivision such as a city or school district from holding an election other than on a statewide election date if past local elections resulted in voter turnout being at least 25% less than the average voter turnout within the political subdivision for the previous four statewide general elections; and

WHEREAS this prohibition commences on January 1, 2018 unless, prior to that date, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate its future elections with statewide dates no later than November of 2022; and

WHEREAS, following a request for clarification by the City of Pasadena and Assemblymember Chris Holden, the State Attorney General opined on July 11, 2017 in Opinion No. 16-603 that the CVPRA applies to charter cities and school districts whose election timing is governed by city charter; and

WHEREAS pursuant to provisions contained in Article XII of the City Charter of the City of Pasadena, the timing of City elections for the offices of Mayor and City Council are set to take place in March and April of odd-numbered years; and

WHEREAS voter turnout in Pasadena local elections generally average about 40% below the voter turnout for statewide general elections, which exceeds the 25% threshold that triggers application of the CVPRA; and

WHEREAS, to be consistent with state law, the City will need to amend the City Charter to change the timing of its municipal elections from odd-numbered years to coincide with statewide elections held in even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS Pasadena's City Charter at Article VII also governs elections of the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District, and the Board is taking its own action to consider consistency with the CVPRA; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2017, the City Council of the City of Pasadena directed staff to prepare a plan to consolidate its future municipal elections held in odd-numbered years with statewide election dates held in even-numbered years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pasadena that the following **Plan to Consolidate City Elections With Statewide Elections** is hereby adopted as follows:

Consistent with the California Voter Participation Rights Act and the requirements of the City Charter of the City of Pasadena, the City will submit a Charter Amendment for voter approval to amend provisions in Article XII of the Pasadena City Charter and change future municipal election dates held in odd-numbered years to consolidate and occur on statewide election dates held in even-numbered years. The City will submit said Charter Amendment to the voters for approval at the next statewide Primary election to be held on June 5, 2018.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Theresa E. Fuentes
Assistant City Attorney