

Agenda Report

October 16, 2017

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA VOTER PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT (CVPRA) AND STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ISSUED OPINION NO. 16-603

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), ("General Rule"); and
- (2) Provide direction to staff regarding potential amendments to the City Charter related to the timing of City elections, as follows:
 - a. Consider whether and how to comply with the CVPRA, including submitting amendments to the City Charter for voter consideration and approval at an upcoming election;
 - b. Refer the matter to the Legislative Policy Committee (or other City Council Committee) for study and recommendation, prior to taking further action;
 - c. Refer the matter to a Charter Study Task Force for study and recommendation, prior to taking further action; or
 - d. Provide alternative direction to staff on how to proceed.

BACKGROUND:

On July 24, 2017 and August 28, 2017, City staff provided information to the City Council regarding the California Voter Participation Rights Act (CVPRA) and State Attorney General Opinion No. 16-603, which opined that the CVPRA applies to charter cities and school districts whose elections are governed by City Charter.

The legislative intent of the CVPRA is to increase voter turnout for local elections by prohibiting cities from holding regular elections on any other date than statewide election dates when local voter turnout rates average 25% less than statewide voter turnout rates. By changing the law, the State is attempting to leverage higher voter turnout rates occurring during statewide elections in order to improve local participation. As it stands now, the majority of city elections held in California already coincide and appear on statewide ballots. So this law affects a smaller percentage of cities, potentially including Pasadena, that conduct elections in the off-year cycle.

Another byproduct of the CVPRA legislation, whether intended or not, is to essentially shift responsibilities for elections to the various County Registrar of Voters (ROV), whose core functions are to maintain voter registration data and conduct elections. There are a number of reasons why such a shift is logistically beneficial, including:

- County ROVs are eligible for funding specific for election administration, such as Help America Vote Act (HAVA) federal grants, with the goal of improving voting systems and experiences for voters, and especially voters with disabilities or special needs
- Voter turnout rates and public participation significantly increase at the larger statewide elections, promoting greater democratic participation
- Changes to State election laws, processes, and procedures are easier to implement with fewer outlier elections and voting systems
- Consolidated elections covering multiple levels of government suggest a better utilization of public funds spent for elections, enabling fair and appropriate cost sharing

The CVPRA is also connected to a larger movement of recent election reforms in California, with the primary advocate for these changes coming from the California Secretary of State. Changes have included electronic voter registration opportunities, the California Motor Voter Registration program, and the California Voter's Choice Act. These modifications to election processes and procedures have been implemented to remove barriers to voting and registration, eliminate influences that may lead to voter suppression, and make the voting experience more accessible and flexible for voters today. Similarly, the CVPRA refocuses efforts in improving civic engagement and participation. Where in the past, various levels of government have sought to bring voters to elections, the CVPRA seeks instead to bring elections to voters.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 16-603

Opinions may vary regarding the strength of the Attorney General's determination as to the question of applicability of the CVPRA to charter cities. As has been discussed with the City Council, there may in fact be strong legal arguments supporting a challenge to the conclusions reached in Opinion No. 16-603, especially in the context of protecting charter city local control rights in governing municipal affairs such as elections. As directed by Council, staff has contacted other charter cities to gauge interest in joining in such a challenge. However, to date, no other charter city has expressed such an interest.

Perhaps as an indicator of the views of other charter cities regarding Opinion No. 16-603, Burbank and Long Beach both recently approved actions to comply with the provisions of the CVPRA and consolidate City elections with statewide dates. With a number of charter cities similarly preparing to consider potential actions to consolidate, it would seem that the benefits of increased voter turnout rates for local elections, potential cost-sharing opportunities in consolidating with the County, and protections from some of the uncertainty associated with maintaining standalone elections may offset local control arguments for this specific issue.

SENATE BILL 25 (PORTANTINO) ELECTIONS: BALLOT ORDER

One area of concern expressed by those opposed to shifting elections to statewide dates is regarding the potential for down-ballot issues or voter fatigue, where voter participation rates decline the further down the ballot a race or measure appears. Currently, the order of precedence of offices for local elections and measures is below national races, statewide races and measures, and countywide races and measures. Thus, the stated benefit of the CVPRA in having more voters participate in an election is reduced if voting tapers off for races and issues positioned towards the end of the ballot.

In an attempt to offset this issue, a recent bill introduced by Anthony Portantino, SB 25 (Portantino) Elections: ballot order, establishes a revised order of precedence of offices on the ballot requiring that local offices and measures appear first before statewide and national offices and measures. By reordering the ballot, there is an increased likelihood that more voters will focus and vote on local races and measures that may otherwise be lost in the attention given to national and state elections. Staff will continue to monitor this bill and provide updates to the Legislative Policy Committee as it makes its way through the State's legislative process.

AUGUST 28, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING RESPONSES

In response to questions raised by the City Council at the August 28, 2017 meeting, the following information is provided. In addition, staff has included (as Attachment A to the agenda report), the 2016 survey results of all cities in California, which was published as part of larger study written by Nicolas Heidorn, California Common Cause, entitled, "California Municipal Democracy Index, 2016".

What is the number of charter cities in California? Answer: 122

What is the timing of elections for these charter cities? Are there are known plans for charter cities on off-cycle elections to comply with the CVPRA?

Of the 122 charter cities in California, 91 cities conduct elections on statewide election dates, while 31 cities conduct elections on non-statewide election dates. Of the 31 non-statewide city elections, 5 cities (Burbank, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Norco, and San Bernardino) have approved, or are in the process of approving, transitions to statewide dates. A number of other charter cities will be considering similar actions in the coming weeks on whether or not to comply with the CVPRA, however, staff is not aware at this time of any charter city that is planning to challenge or to not comply with the CVPRA. Following is a chart to provide this information in a different format:

Charter cities with elections on statewide Primary or statewide General election dates	91
Charter cities with elections on non-statewide election dates	31
Charter cities with known plans to comply with the CVPRA	5

How many charter cities utilize plurality voting, run-off voting, or instant run-off voting?

Of the 122 charter cities in California, 102 cities utilize plurality voting, while 16 cities utilize run-off elections, and 4 cities utilize instant run-off or ranked choice voting.

There are 6 cities of the 16 run-off election cities with Primary and General election dates that already align with the statewide Primary and General elections (Chula Vista, Fresno, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, and Stockton). Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Bernardino have approved, or are in the process of approving, the same alignment with Primary and General statewide dates. The recent action taken by Burbank to comply with the CVPRA (scheduled for voter approval in June 2018) would eliminate run-off elections and switch to plurality voting, with Burbank's regular elections to align with statewide General elections held in November.

Finally, there are 4 cities that utilize instant run-off voting: Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Leandro. The City and County of San Francisco is one entity, while Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro are cities with elections that are conducted by the Alameda Registrar of Voters. Both San Francisco and Alameda Counties utilize voting technology that accommodates instant run-off voting.

The following table provides voter turnout data for Pasadena City and statewide elections:

VOTER TURNOUT COMPARISON:								
City Council Data	2011 Primary	2011 General	2013 Primary	2013 General	2015 Primary	2015 General	2017 Primary	2017 General
Voter Registration	73,400	12,372	29,671	N/A	76,248	79,268	32,589	12,508
Ballots Cast	14,483	3,753	3,826	N/A	15,368	15,804	7,061	3,561
Voter Turnout	19.7%	30.3%	12.9%	N/A	20.2%	19.9%	21.7%	28.5%
Statewide Data	2010 Primary	2010 General	2012 Primary	2012 General	2014 Primary	2014 General	2016 Primary	2016 General
Voter Registration	69,554	72,024	72,351	75,190	78,446	79,026	78,936	82,831
Ballots Cast	20,065	44,930	20,597	58,075	15,431	29,858	38,419	62,468
Voter Turnout	28.9%	62.4%	28.5%	77.2%	19.7%	37.8%	49.0%	75.4%

Average voter turnout for City Primary elections: 18.6%

Average voter turnout for City General elections: 26.2%

Average voter turnout for State Primary elections: 31.4%

Average voter turnout for State General elections: 63.2%

Pursuant to Elections Code Section 14051(b), "Significant decrease in voter turnout' means the voter turnout for a regularly scheduled election in a political subdivision is at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within that political subdivision for the previous four statewide General elections." Based on this definition, Pasadena's turnout rates for Mayor or City Council races held in the past four election cycles are too low to meet the threshold requirements that provide protections against potential CVPRRA litigation.

Discussion on the Practical Issues of Continuing Standalone Elections

Setting aside the issues of voter turnout and CVPRRA compliance, there are many practical matters that need to be considered when deciding the City's path forward with regard to election timing. As has been pointed out in previous agenda reports, the most significant impact of the law to Pasadena has been the financial impact on the City's election vendor Martin & Chapman Company (MCC). The City Clerk's Office is not presently staffed to conduct an election itself, nor does the City own voting equipment or other necessary resources to conduct an election.

In an email to client cities, MCC staff layout the challenges facing the company as the ripple effect of CVPRRA compliance continues. While assuring customers that the business is not closing, MCC staff is unable at this time to predict future operations beyond 2018. As more and more cities consider the CVPRRA issue, and additional MCC client-cities transition to statewide election dates (most recently Burbank), the Office of the City Clerk as the City's Election Official must protect and ensure the City's ability to conduct future City elections. This is especially true and concerning when considering that the upcoming 2019 election cycle is approximately 13 months from the opening of the nomination period.

Staff has been in discussions with Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters, and his staff about the potential for the LA County ROV to step in and assist Pasadena with the upcoming 2019 City election, should it become necessary. The County staff indicated that an election conducted by the County for Pasadena would necessitate an increase to the time between the City's Primary and General elections to 12 weeks. This change would require a Charter Amendment ballot measure to be approved by the voters **prior to the 2019 City election cycle.**

In addition, at the request of City staff, the County provided a cost estimate that totaled \$2,178,000 to conduct the City's 2019 Primary and General elections (Attachment B), which essentially triples the City's cost when compared to recent total actual election expenses. Finally, County staff expressed concerns with conducting City elections in the future that do not comply with the CVPRRA given the determination made by the Attorney General in Opinion No. 16-603. As such, County staff could not guarantee that a request for election services would be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

In the event MCC is not able to support the 2019 election cycle, and it is determined that either the County is too expensive or is unwilling to conduct the City's 2019 standalone elections on behalf of the City, the remaining option would be to attempt to bring the election services in-house. In September, Pasadena City Clerk staff met with Long Beach City Clerk staff, who have conducted Long Beach City elections on an in-house basis since 2007. The purpose was to study and understand the overall scope of conducting elections in-house. It was quickly apparent that such an undertaking will require significant investment in money, staff, materials, supplies, and training. Essentially, the City would purchase its own voting system, and operate as a de facto Registrar of Voters (ROV).

One major step to simulating the Long Beach in-house model is to establish access into the Los Angeles County ROV's DIMS Voter Database. Based on the Long Beach model, Pasadena would require direct access into the County's DIMS system in order "create" elections, activate in the system the active voting areas in Pasadena, identify eligible voters, and utilize the system to track the ongoing Vote by Mail (VBM) balloting process during an election.

As with conducting an election on behalf of Pasadena, the County must agree to provide direct access to DIMS. In addition to the technical requirements to establish the connection (Long Beach estimated that the DIMS access setup required an investment of \$60,000), the City would need to consider cyber security issues related to accessing voter data remotely (especially given recent national news regarding voter data hacking efforts). The County too has been concerned with potential voter data security issues, and has become more rigid in its willingness to facilitate access to County voter files.

If the DIMS access issues can be resolved, the City must still invest in a certified ballot tabulation system (a significant expense), as well as all the materials and supplies previously provided by MCC. As an example, Long Beach has purchased and maintains its own voting booths, precinct kits, signage, etc. Further, the City Clerk's Office would also need to replace all election services related to printing, mailing, and disseminating of election information to voters previously handled by MCC. This will require the hiring of additional full-time City Clerk staff, as well as part-time seasonal election staff, in order to fill the vacuum of responsibilities previously provided by MCC.

To not overstate the obvious, such an endeavor would be a huge effort and challenge to successfully overcome. And even if successful, such an investment would continue to result in substantially lower voter turnout results than statewide elections. The final point that staff would make on the potential option of conducting in-house elections is that in light of the changes in the law and the Attorney General's Opinion, and in spite of the significant investment made and expertise gained over 10 years of conducting in-house elections, the City of Long Beach has also recently decided to comply with the CVPRRA and transition to statewide dates.

COMPARISON SCENARIOS

The City Council requested that staff provide additional information, including a comparative analysis of competing scenarios for the City Council to consider. Pursuant to this directive, the following information highlights the various scenarios, providing the pros and cons of each scenario, as well as practical factors such as estimated costs and the ability of staff to maintain election integrity for City elections.

Current Election Vendor:

<p>STATUS QUO – MARTIN & CHAPMAN COMPANY OPTION</p> <p>The City Clerk’s Office currently administers City Council and Board of Education elections as detailed in the Pasadena City Charter. Elections occur in March and April of odd years, with a six week period between the March Primary election and April General (run-off) election. Successful candidates must receive a 50%+1 majority in either the March Primary or April General election. Tabulation of ballots occurs in City of Pasadena. Issues and races are generally specific to Pasadena and PUSD.</p> <p>To facilitate the City’s election process, certain services are provided by an outside election vendor that are beyond the current scope and expertise of City staff. The City has historically contracted with Martin & Chapman Company (MCC) for these specialized election-related services, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Typesetting/printing of official ballots and sample ballot information pamphlets ➤ Provide access to Pasadena voter files ➤ Assist staff in activating City elections with County of Los Angeles ➤ Provide Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot preparation and tracking software ➤ Mailing election material to voters ➤ Preparing and providing Precinct Supplies (printing voter rosters, official ballots, translated election materials, voting booths, secure ballot boxes, etc.) ➤ Furnishing certified ballot tabulation equipment and software
<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains local control of City elections, including election timing • Focus is on local issues and races • Accountability rests with the Pasadena City Clerk’s Office • Canvass of returns available within two weeks of election • Tabulation of ballots occurs in Pasadena • Non-partisan
<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not comply with the CVPRA • Significantly lower voter turnout • Will still require changes to City Charter; lengthen period between Primary and General elections to 12 weeks

- Potential future legal liability (CVPRRA, ADA Compliance, Language Requirements)
- Questions regarding election vendor viability
- Election integrity issues
- County of Los Angeles questions related to supporting requests for City elections not in compliance with CVPRRA

COSTS:

Based on statements from MCC, the vendor costs associated with supporting the status quo election model will increase considerably to balance out the loss of business and revenue from other MCC client-cities changing to statewide election dates.

MCC has declined to provide cost estimates for elections beyond calendar year 2018, so staff is unable to reasonably predict at this time what increases will occur for the upcoming 2019 election cycle. It would not be surprising, however, for MCC rates to increase by as much as 30-40% (or even higher) to meet the company's bottom line.

In addition, such increases do not take into account any additional/pending MCC client-cities taking action in terms of CVPRRA compliance. As noted above, the City of Burbank recently voted unanimously to:

- Consolidate Burbank elections with the statewide General election starting November, 2020
- Eliminate Burbank's Primary election
- Extend City Council terms from 4 years to 5 years and 7 months
- Submit the above as a Charter Amendment for voter approval - June of 2018 (statewide Primary)

As additional MCC client-cities consider similar actions, Pasadena can anticipate further increases to projected election costs based on the number of cities that choose to comply with the CVPRRA. Moreover, fewer client-cities will further erode the necessary revenue needed to maintain MCC's viability and operations.

Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters:

STATUS QUO – LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OPTION

In the event the MCC model is no longer viable, one option for the City Council to consider would be to contract with the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters (ROV) to conduct the election on behalf of the City. This assumes the County would be willing to conduct elections on behalf of the City (with concerns expressed by County ROV staff noted above) and the City amends the City Charter to extend the period between the City's Primary and General elections to 12 weeks.

In this scenario, the City Clerk's Office would coordinate and oversee the Candidate Nomination process, including conducting candidate workshops, issuing nomination papers, and receiving nomination filings.

The LA County Registrar of Voters (ROV) would then complete the election process, including printing and mailing election materials and VBM ballots, verifying signatures, preparing and staffing City polling sites, collecting ballots, and canvassing votes.

PROS

- Maintains City election timing
- Focus on local issues and races
- Non-partisan
- Ensures integrity and accuracy of City's election

CONS

- Does not comply with the CVPRA
- Significantly lower voter turnout
- Will still require changes to City Charter; lengthen period between Primary and General elections to 12 weeks
- Potential issues with the County of Los Angeles agreeing to support City elections that do not comply with the CVPRA
- Accountability rests with the LA County ROV
- Canvass of returns would likely be delayed beyond two weeks
- Tabulation of ballots occurs in Norwalk
- County election estimates 200-300% above current costs

COSTS

Based on two estimates received from the LA County ROV, the costs for the County to run the election on behalf of the City would cause the City's election costs to about triple.

For Mayor and City Council Districts 1, 2, 4, & 6:

Actual 2015 Primary and General Election costs:	\$742,000
Estimated County 2019 Primary and General Election costs:	\$2,178,000

In-House Election Services:

PASADENA CITY STAFF OPTION
<p>A third option to maintain the status quo would be to replicate the City of Long Beach's process and create an in-house election solution. This would require significant investment to successfully implement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing City Clerk staffing resources• Purchasing ballot tabulation equipment• Identifying and acquiring the necessary election materials and supplies to conduct precinct elections• Storing all ballot tabulation equipment and supplies in a secure City location• Establishing direct access into the Los Angeles County's DIMS voter database• Contracting with a Certified Ballot Printer to print and provide official City election ballots• Training City Clerk and City Attorney staff in election policy and procedures• Identifying remaining unknown aspects of conducting an in-house City election
PROS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintains City election timing• Focus on local issues and races• Non-partisan• Accountability rests with the Pasadena City Clerk's Office• Canvass of returns would likely be available within two weeks• Tabulation of ballots occurs in Pasadena
CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not comply with the CVPRA• Significantly lower voter turnout• Will still require changes to City Charter; lengthen period between Primary and General elections to 12 weeks• Potential issues with the County of Los Angeles agreeing to support City elections that do not comply with the CVPRA• Significant increase to election complexity for City Clerk staff• Managing multiple vendors (Ballot tabulation equipment and election printing services)• No access to Help America Vote Act (HAVA); all costs and equipment investments to be supported by City's General Fund• Accuracy and election integrity issues• Limited time to employ for the 2019 election cycle
UNKNOWNNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• True costs to implement this model• Cyber security risks and issues (election data)• Other potential risks and liabilities

COSTS	
<p>The following is based on information gathered by staff from the City of Long Beach, as well as from various election vendors (i.e. Hart Intercivic and Runbeck). This information is provided as an example of what might be needed to facilitate this option. As stated above, the total true costs of this model is unknown.</p>	
CERTIFIED BALLOT COUNTER	
Hart Intercivic Ballot Tabulating System: Ballot counter, ballot marking device, software, hardware, for 64 voting precincts	\$500,000
Ballot layout software package	\$2,500
Annual license and support fee	\$25,000
PRECINCT KITS	
256 Voting Booths, 64 ADA Accessible	\$50,000
Reusable Ballot Boxes	\$7,500
Precinct Supplies to be replaced for each election	\$40,000
Total Capital Investment:	\$625,000
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES	
<p>The City would also continue to incur ongoing normal election material and supply expenses to conduct City elections, such as printing of official ballots and election materials, postage for pamphlets and VBM ballots, polling site rentals, poll worker salaries, translation services, election night production expenses, etc. It is not anticipated that this option would provide any significant savings in this area.</p>	
Services and Supplies:	\$450,000
CITY CLERK AND ELECTION WORKER STAFFING COSTS	
<p>Additional full-time and part-time personnel would be necessary to help manage and coordinate the in-house election activities for City elections.</p> <p>Estimated staffing requests would include at least 3 additional FTE's that would oversee the management and coordination of election related activities, including the secure storage and upkeep of precinct supplies and voting equipment, VBM oversight and processing, and Official ballot setup, printing, and Election Night tabulation. In examining the roles and responsibilities, staff would recommend hiring Program Coordinator level positions to fill these additional roles, with a fully burdened rate of \$121,271. Additional part-time staff would also be needed to provide necessary support for other election functions.</p>	
Program Coordinator (3 FTE's)	\$363,813
Part-time Election Workers (4 CTW's)	\$140,000

Complying with the CVPRRA, moving to statewide dates:

CVPRRA COMPLIANCE – LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
<p>In complying with the CVPRRA, the City would consolidate elections with statewide election dates conducted by the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters. The City Clerk's Office would coordinate and oversee the Candidate Nomination process, including conducting candidate workshops, issuing nomination papers, and receiving nomination filings. Once candidates have been verified and documents filed, the LA County ROV would complete the remaining tasks associated with the election process.</p> <p>By complying with the CVPRRA, this would resolve many of the practical issues cited above, including ensuring the integrity and accuracy of future City election results. It would eliminate the potential need for significant investment in election equipment and hiring additional City staff. In addition, the voter turnout for most statewide elections is significantly higher than the turnout achieved on the City's current odd-year election cycle, thus benefiting the City's democratic process by including more voter participation in local races.</p> <p>If this option is determined to be appropriate, the City Council would need to decide on the Charter Amendment language to be submitted to voters of the City for approval.</p> <p>An example that is consistent with the actions of other charter cities, including Los Angeles, Burbank, and Long Beach, the City Council could propose as part of the Charter Amendment an extension of the current City Council terms to 5 ½ years (on a one-time basis) to facilitate the transition. This would result in the City delaying the upcoming 2019 elections for Mayor and City Council until the 2020 election process, as well as delaying the 2021 elections for Council Districts 3, 5, and 7 until 2022.</p>
<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complies with the CVPRRA• Increases voter turnout in Pasadena elections• Eliminates potential liabilities related to ADA and election language compliance• Leverages resources of LA County ROV (e.g. HAVA funds and new voting systems) for the benefit of City voters• Enhanced voting experience, especially for voters with disabilities• Incorporates Pasadena as part of the larger election reform effort<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voter's Choice Act, changing when, where and how voters can vote• CVPRRA designed to increase participation in local elections
<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidates City elections with larger national and statewide races, creating potential issues for candidates that are not well-funded• May lead to more partisan politics in City races, which are designated as non-partisan elections• Accountability rests with the LA County ROV• Canvass of returns likely not certified for 21 days or longer

- Tabulation of ballots occurs in Norwalk

COSTS

Based on statements made by the LA County ROV, the costs for the County to administer City's elections would increase above the City's current election cost levels. However, there is no current scenario where the City will not experience an increase to election costs. The only opportunity for savings for future City elections would be for the City to utilize a voting method that would eliminate the need for runoff elections (e.g. plurality voting).

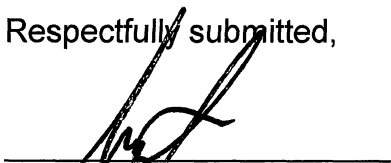
SB 568 UPDATE

SB 568 (Lara), recently signed by Governor Brown, changes the timing of statewide Primary elections to occur three months earlier beginning with the 2020 election cycle. The Primary date will move from June in even years to March in even years. Prior to the Governor signing, the final bill was amended to remove provisions that would have provided the Governor with the authority to unilaterally change the timing of the Presidential Primary election to an even earlier date than March in order to allow the voice of California to be heard in Presidential Primary races. As written and adopted, SB 568 sets the California's statewide Primary election date to occur on the first Tuesday following a Monday in March of even years. This change also removes the uncertainty for any local elections that coincide with statewide dates (as required by the CVPRA) by ensuring consistency in the timing of statewide Primary elections. It does, however, lengthen the timing between the statewide Primary and General election to 8 months. This will impact those elected positions whose elections require a run-off and coincide with statewide dates.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council allocated \$150,000 in the City Clerk's FY 2016 Operating Budget towards the formation and support of a citizen-based Charter Study Task Force. In FY 2017, and again in FY 2018, the City Clerk's Office carried forward the Council's funding allocation in anticipation of a future need for charter review. The full balance of the funding allocation has been maintained, and at this time, no additional funding needs are anticipated.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Jomsky, CMC
City Clerk

Attachments:

Attachment A: Appendix Survey Results, California Municipal Democracy Index, 2016, Nicolas Heirdon, California Common Cause, Pages 53-70

Attachment B: September 7, 2017 Election Cost Estimate from Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters