

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JULY 24, 2000

FROM: CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURES -- THREE (3) CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS REGARDING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (INCREASE IN SIZE OF BOARD; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION BY SUB-DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING FOR A STATE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MESSAGE) AND ONE (1) ADVISORY PROPOSITION ON THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM PLAN OF THE CITY OF PASADENA CHARTER REFORM TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve and adopt the following:

- (1) **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA CALLING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY AND IN THE TERRITORY ANNEXED THERETO FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000, FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THREE (3) CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ONE (1) ADVISORY PROPOSITION ON THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM PLAN OF THE CITY OF PASADENA CHARTER REFORM TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE**
- (2) **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO AUTHORIZE AND ORDER THE CONSOLIDATION OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE TERRITORY ANNEXED THERETO FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES WITH THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000, AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY CLERK/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SERVICES**

58145.3

MEETING OF 7/24/2000

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.C.1.

- (3) **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA REGARDING WRITTEN ARGUMENTS PERTAINING TO THREE (3) CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ONE (1) ADVISORY PROPOSITION ON THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM PLAN OF THE CITY OF PASADENA CHARTER REFORM TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO CAUSE TO BE PREPARED THE IMPARTIAL ANALYSES FOR SAID PROPOSITIONS.**

BACKGROUND.

The City of Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance (“Task Force”) was charged with reviewing the governance of the Board of Education and such other means of increasing the accessibility, responsiveness, and accountability of the Board of Education as the Task Force may determine. The Task Force presented a series of findings and recommendations about new policies and directions for the management and operation of the PUSD system. Taken together, these recommendations comprise the School Accountability and Reform Plan for the PUSD. The recommendations emerged as a result of a thorough analysis of perceived problems within the District.

Recommendations pertaining to governance require amendment of the City Charter, and, in that regard, three separate Charter amendment propositions have been prepared. It should be noted that one of the proposed recommendations, changing the election method from at-large to sub-district, can only become effective upon amendment of state law, specifically Education Code, Section 5223, which requires at-large elections for any elective city board of education. Therefore, that particular proposition has been written with a contingency, with a change in election method taking effect only when and if state law on that subject takes effect. It is a complex proposition, because the transition affects many provisions of the Charter and because it must address the continuing at large elections and a transition to sub-district elections. The balance of the findings and recommendations of the Task Force constitute the School Accountability and Reform Plan for which an advisory proposition has been prepared.

The attached resolutions will implement the recommendations of the Task Force by placing the following three (3) Charter Amendment recommendations and one (1) advisory vote on the School Accountability and Reform Plan as propositions on the November 7, 2000 ballot:

CHARTER AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The size of the Board of Education shall be changed from 5 members to 7 members.

The election method for the Board shall be changed from at-large election to election by sub-district, as soon as state law is amended to allow it.

The President of the Board of Education shall make an annual State of the Public Schools address to the community.

ADVISORY VOTE:

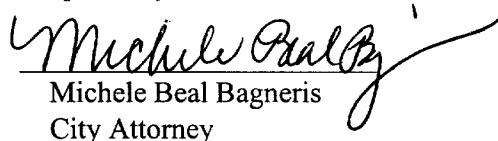
The people of the Pasadena Unified School District are asked whether to adopt the School Accountability and Reform Plan of the City of Pasadena Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance and to call upon the Board of Education to implement it.

FISCAL IMPACT.

The County Registrar of Voters Office has quoted an estimate of \$60,000 to consolidate and put three Charter amendments on the November 7, 2000 ballot. To add the advisory vote pertaining to the people adopting the Reform Plan would add an additional \$8,000, for a total of \$68,000. This cost does not include printing the full Charter amendment text in the voter pamphlet, nor does it include printing the Reform Plan Findings and Recommendations. To include this text in the pamphlet would require the City printing a supplemental voter information pamphlet. The \$68,000 cost includes consolidation fees, and the County printing (in English only) the ballot questions for each measure, City Attorney's impartial analyses, and arguments.

To consolidate this election, print and mail a bilingual English/Spanish supplemental pamphlet of the text of four measures would cost approximately \$140,000. There are no additional funds in the Elections Budget for this special election. Funds would need to be identified and appropriated to the Elections Budget.

Respectfully submitted,


Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney