

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2000

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO THE CALLING OF THE REGULAR MARCH 6, 2001, CITY DISTRICT PRIMARY 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 City District Primary Election in Districts 3, 5, and 7 of the City of Pasadena and consolidating with said election the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education Primary, Seats 1, 3 and 5, 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 District and Pasadena Board of Education primary municipal election on March 6, 2001 and, if necessary, a general municipal election to be held on April 17, 2001.
- (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 District Primary 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 District Primary 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 District Primary 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 the letter (Attachment 1) dated October 17, 2000, from the Pasadena Unified School District.

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.

Based on Census data for the City of Pasadena and the School District area, Spanish and Chinese qualify 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.

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. The deposits have been raised to more accurately reflect actual costs from past election cycles (from \$225 to \$250 for district races, and \$1500 to \$1600 for at-large PUSD races). If actual costs are lower or higher than the deposit, candidates will be refunded or invoiced the difference.


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 Monday, March 12, 2001 (the first Monday following the primary election). 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.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is estimated that the total cost of the primary election will be approximately \$260,000, including costs for election supplies and services. This estimated figure may fluctuate based on various factors such as number of candidates, measures 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.

If voters approve Measure AA on the November 7, 2000 ballot to increase the size of the Board of Education from five to seven members, a subsequent resolution will be presented to Council at the time canvass results are presented to call for the March 6, 2001 election of Board of Education Seat 6 (two-year term) and Seat 7 (four-year term). The School District would be responsible for paying increased costs of approximately \$20,000 for two additional at-large races.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane L. Rodriguez
City Clerk

Reviewed by:



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