



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JUNE 4, 2019**
FROM: CITY CLERK **WARD: ALL**
**SUBJECT: MAYOR 2020 ELECTION ALIGNMENT WITH STATEWIDE ELECTION –
ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

ISSUE:

Adopt an ordinance providing that beginning in 2020, the Mayoral elections shall be conducted the same as statewide elections in United States Presidential election years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Introduce and subsequently adopt the attached Ordinance providing that Mayoral regular municipal elections be conducted the same as statewide elections for United States Presidential election years; and
2. Direct the City Clerk to forward this matter to the Charter Review Committee to amend Charter Sections 400 and 500.

DISCUSSION:

Charter Section 500 sets Mayoral election dates for the first Tuesday following the first Monday in June of United States Presidential election years. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a runoff election with the two candidates receiving the most votes shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November of that same year, as provided in Charter Section 400.

On September 1, 2017, the Governor signed into law SB 415, known as the California Voter Participation Act (Act). The Act requires that unless voter turnout is within 25% of average statewide election turnout, local elections shall be consolidated with statewide elections. Application of the Act to Charter cities was affirmed by an Attorney General Opinion in July of 2017. The City of Riverside does not meet the voter turnout threshold and, as a result, is subject to the Act.

Pursuant to the Act, on November 7, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 7396 providing that "Beginning in 2022, general municipal elections for the election of members of the City Council and for other purposes as the City Council may prescribe shall be held in the City on the same day as the statewide election, consistent with the primary and general election dates set by the State."

On September 27, 2017, the Governor signed into law SB 568, which, effective January 1, 2019, the California Direct and Presidential primary elections would occur on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. Similar to the change in City Council elections and in compliance with the California Voter Participation Act (Act), the attached ordinance would move the 2020 Mayoral general election and reaffirm that all subsequent such elections shall coincide with the statewide primary election for United States President.

The Ordinance is recommended for consideration at this time as proposed Charter Amendments addressing election dates placed on the ballot by the City Council will be before voters on November 3, 2020, not timely to affect any change in the June 2, 2020, Mayoral general election. If the proposed ordinance is adopted, the next election for Mayor will be March 3, 2020. This change also addresses potential voter confusion with two elections only three months apart.

If no action is taken on the proposed ordinance, an election will be held on June 2, 2020, pursuant to Ordinance No. 7396. The subsequent general election for Mayor will be held on March 5, 2024, and consolidated with United States Presidential Elections in future years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A below cost comparison for conducting the election in June and March shows significant savings to consolidate the 2020 Mayoral election with the statewide general election on March 3, 2020. The one-time cost of approximately \$47,000 to notify voters of the election date change can be absorbed in the current City Clerk's Office budget. The cost of the Mayoral 2020 general and run-off elections will be budgeted in the FY 2020/21 Budget where costs will be invoiced and paid.

ELECTION DATE	COST
June 2020 Mail-In	\$300,000
June 2020 Polling Place	\$450,000
March 2020 Consolidation	\$150,000
One-time Notice to Voters	\$47,000
TOTAL	\$197,000
Election Date Change Savings (mail-in)	\$103,000
Election Date Change Savings (polling place)	\$253,000

Prepared by: Colleen J. Nicol, City Clerk
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

Charter Sections 400 and 500
 Ordinance No. 7396
 Ordinance