



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JULY 7, 2026

FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION RECITING THE FACT OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 2, 2026, DECLARING THE RESULTS - A RESOLUTION CALLING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL RUNOFF ELECTION FOR WARDS 2 AND 4 CITY COUNCIL SEATS

ISSUE:

Adopt a resolution reciting the facts of June 2, 2026, General Municipal Election and declaring the results for City Council Wards 2, 4, and 6 and Ballot Measure Z, the City of Riverside Voter-Approved Transaction and Use Tax Renewal Measure. Additionally, adopt a resolution calling a Special Municipal Runoff Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the election of City Council members representing Wards 2 and 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution reciting the facts of the General Municipal Election held on June 2, 2026, and declaring the results for City Council Wards 2, 4, and 6 and Ballot Measure Z;
2. Adopt a resolution calling a Special Municipal Runoff Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the election of City Council members representing Wards 2 and 4, to be consolidated with all other elections held on the same day within the City;
3. Maintain the policy requiring candidates to pay the cost of publishing a Candidate Statement of Qualifications of up to 200 words; and
4. Direct the City Clerk to carry out all administrative duties in accordance with the City Charter and the California Elections Code.

BACKGROUND:

On January 6, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 24342, calling an election to be held on June 2, 2026, for the purpose of electing City Council members representing Wards 2, 4, and 6. Subsequently, on March 3, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 24360, ordering the placement of a ballot measure on the same ballot (City of Riverside Measure Z),

which proposed renewing the City's Transaction and Use Tax (Sales Tax) at an updated rate of one and one-quarter percent until repealed by the voters.

In accordance with California Elections Code section 15372, the Riverside County Registrar of Voters (ROV) completed the official canvass of returns for June 2, 2026, General Municipal Election on June 26, 2026.

Further, Elections Code section 15400 provides that, "The governing board shall also declare the results of each election under its jurisdiction as to each measure voted on at the election." Riverside City Charter section 400(e) states:

"Officials elected at the general municipal election shall take office on the second Tuesday following completion of the canvass, but in no event later than the fifth Tuesday following the general municipal election."

The candidates and contest who appeared on the ballot are listed below:

Ward 2

Gracie Torres
Christen Montero
Aram Ayra
Mike Vahl

Ward 4

Jessica Qattawi
Chuck Conder
Rich Vandenberg

Ward 6

Oz Puerta
Luis Hernandez
Norma Berrellez

Ballot Measure Z: *"To fund general local city services such as 911, fire, police response; preparing for wildfires; recruiting/retaining well-trained firefighters/paramedics; preventing crime; keeping public areas safe/clean; addressing homelessness; repairing potholes/roads; shall a measure renewing the existing City of Riverside voter-approved transaction and use (sales) tax at an updated 1 ¼¢ rate, providing approximately \$106,000,000 annually until ended by voters, subject to audits, spending disclosure, all funds controlled locally, be adopted?"*

DISCUSSION:

For the June 2, 2026, General Municipal Election, every registered voter received a vote-by-mail ballot. In addition to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters Office, seventeen (17) vote centers and thirteen (13) ballot drop-off locations were available throughout the City.

The official election results indicate that Ward 2 candidates **Gracie Torres** and **Aram Ayra**, and Ward 4 candidates **Chuck Conder** and **Rich Vandenberg**, received the highest number of votes in their respective contests.

Pursuant to the City Charter, because no candidate received a majority of the votes cast in those races, the City Council must call a Special Municipal Runoff Election to be held on November 3, 2026, concurrent with the statewide general election.

For Ward 6, candidate **Luis Hernandez** received a majority of the votes cast and is therefore

declared elected to represent Ward 6 for a four-year term ending in June 2030.

Additionally, a majority of voters opposed Ballot Measure Z, the City of Riverside Voter-Approved Transaction and Use Tax Renewal Measure. As a result, the ballot measure failed.

Attached to the report is the Riverside Registrar of Voters Certificate of Election, the Statement of Vote, and a resolution reflecting the final election results.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost of conducting November 3, 2026, Special Municipal Runoff Election is included in the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

Prepared by: Donesia Gause, City Clerk

Approved as to form: Rebecca McKee-Reimbold, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Certificate of Election
2. Resolution – Reciting the fact
 - a. Exhibit A - Statement of Vote
3. Resolution calling the election
4. Presentation