



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

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CONNY B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

July 10, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

OUR DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN CITY OF LOS ANGELES SPECIAL REORGANIZATION ELECTIONS AND PREPARATIONS TO DATE

This memo provides initial information on the role of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk department (RR/CC) in the preparation for and conduct of the City of Los Angeles Special Reorganization elections for the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood areas.

Based on recent actions by LAFCO, these special reorganization elections will be held in conjunction with the November 5, 2002 General Election. All aspects of election administration will be handled by the RR/CC with the exception of the filing of campaign finance documents which will be the responsibility of the City of Los Angeles Ethics Commission. LAFCO's decision regarding the administration of these elections was based on several factors including application of election laws for general law cities. Therefore, candidate filing, ballot preparation, production/mailing of sample ballots and absentee ballots, ballot counting and reporting of election results will be carried out by the RR/CC.

Candidate Filing

The candidate filing period will be truncated for these two special elections. While candidate filing for other offices to be elected on the November 2002 ballot begins on July 15, 2002, candidate filing for the San Fernando Valley special reorganization election cannot begin until your Board calls the election which we are advised by County Counsel is anticipated no sooner than July 25, 2002. Similarly, candidate filing for the Hollywood special reorganization election cannot begin until LAFCO calls the election which we understand is scheduled for July 31, 2002. The deadline for all candidate filing in conjunction with the November 5, 2002 election is August 9, 2002.

Because we have a very small staff with expertise in complex candidate filing processes, all candidate registration and filing of nomination documents for the special reorganization elections as well as other offices on the November ballot will take place at the RR/CC headquarters in Norwalk. To assist all candidates with these processes, we

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have had an “on line” candidate filing/registration system on our website at www.lavote.net for several years. As of July 1, 2002, we launched a candidate “pre-registration” feature on our website to guide interested persons through the filing requirements. This will streamline the formal candidate filing process once the nomination period officially opens. Candidate information materials on the website also include a calendar of events, list of filing requirements for the various offices, and information on filing of campaign finance statements (with a referral to L.A. City Ethics Commission for special reorganization candidates).

We are concerned about the potential large number of candidates who may be filing for these new offices in the special reorganization areas. Unlike candidate filing for other city offices, there is no filing fee and the minimum number of nomination signatures required to qualify is only 20. With such non-restrictive filing requirements and the large number of proposed city council seats (14 single member council districts and an at-large mayor in the San Fernando Valley and 5 at-large council seats in Hollywood), the number of candidates could be between 100-200.

Election Costs

State law requires the County to bear the election administration costs of special reorganization elections if the measure(s) fails. If the voters approve of one or both of the special reorganizations, the election costs are shared between the old and new city or cities. Our department’s current budget does not include funding to cover the additional cost (amount unknown at this time) of these elections should the County be required to absorb the expenses associated with conducting these elections.

Conclusion

There are numerous uncertainties regarding the administration of the special reorganization elections. Further updates will be provided as the process moves forward. If you have questions, please call me or my Chief Deputy Kristin Heffron at (562) 462-2716.

c: CAO
County Counsel