



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/(562) 462-2716

**CONNOR B. McCORMACK**  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

February 17, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

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

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE CHANGES (AB 1521)**

New legislation (AB 1521) now allows cities to conduct their elections on any established election date. Several City Clerks have contacted our office, at the request of their Councilmembers, to inquire about changing municipal election dates from March of odd-numbered years to a date that coincides with County elections.

Attached is a memo sent to all cities outlining the alternatives for cities. Our strong recommendation to cities has been, and remains, that those who wish to consolidate with County elections consider the November odd year UDEL (Unified District Elections). As outlined in our memo, the November odd year election offers guaranteed access to cities as well as the potential for cost savings for those cities where school board or other jurisdictions conduct elections.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 462-2716.

c: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**  
12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/(562) 462-2716

**CONNOR B. McCORMACK**  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

February 2, 2004

TO: City Clerks  
Members of City Councils

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

**Consolidation of Municipal Elections with  
Established County Election Dates**

A number of cities in Los Angeles County are considering changing their City's municipal election dates to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of even-numbered years.

City Councils are, of course, free to choose the date of their regularly scheduled municipal elections. However, if cities wish to consolidate with County-conducted elections, we recommend consideration of November in the odd-numbered years to coincide with the Uniform District Election Law (UDEL) date when 13 of the 88 Cities in the County consolidate elections. The reasons for this recommendation are included at the end of this letter.

Attempting to consolidate your election in March of the even-numbered years invites a host of problems and complications as detailed below:

- 1) It appears unlikely that the State Primary will be held in March of 2006. There are many indications that the State Legislature will move the Primary back to June in the non-presidential election years. Thus cities may move elections in anticipation of holding the election on the same date as the Gubernatorial Primary -- and this may not transpire.
- 2) Due to the finite ballot capacity of the County's past and current voting systems (i.e. Votomatic punch card and InkaVote optical scan, respectively), the County has a long-standing policy of discouraging requests for consolidation of regular city elections with the Primary or General elections.
- 3) Even if the 2006 Primary Election remains in March and the Board of Supervisors were to approve your request for election consolidation, if the consolidation resulted in the ballot capacity being exceeded, cities would then

be in the position of having to conduct “concurrent” elections. Concurrent elections occur when two elections are held by two different jurisdictions on the same day, at the same voting locations, but with separate ballots that must be processed and tabulated at separate locations. In the recent past such concurrent elections have resulted with other cities due to ballot capacity issues or when filing deadlines for candidates/ballot measures were incompatible between jurisdictions. Needless to say, concurrent elections are confusing for both pollworkers and voters alike and are not cost effective.

In summary, we would like to accommodate any and all cities' desires to consolidate regular city elections with a County-conducted election. In light of the above issues, we hope City Councils will opt for consolidating on the first Tuesday of November in odd-numbered years. This election date is available to all cities and other jurisdictions for election consolidation with the County. The UDEL election date is stable and access to this ballot is guaranteed to the jurisdictions that wish to consolidate as there has never been a ballot capacity issue with regard to this date.

An additional incentive is the fact that official UDEL election results are typically finalized and reported to the participating jurisdictions approximately two weeks after the election. Final, official results from Primary and General elections are typically not available for 28 days, as these elections are countywide and involve all four million registered voters. For these major elections we must complete the official vote canvass for the entire County before reporting official results to any participating jurisdiction and the sheer volume of ballots requires considerably more time to complete and report the final tally.

If you have follow-up questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Deborah Wright, Executive Liaison Officer, at (562) 462-2716.