



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Clerk-Recorder-
Assessor
Department No.: 062
For Agenda Of: 08/18/2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Joseph E. Holland, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Director(s)
Contact Info: Elaina Cano, Elections Division Manager, 805-696-8953

SUBJECT: Poll Worker Compensation

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Adopt a Resolution which provides for an hourly-pay compensation for poll workers effective for the November 2020, General Election (Attachment A); and
- b. Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because they consist of administrative activities of the County that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders, the complexity of conducting elections has increased dramatically. The County Elections Division will be offering in-person voting at polling places throughout the County over a four (4) day period and we are seeking to compensate poll workers by hour rather than by stipend for the single day (Election Day) as has been done in the past. This compensation would not apply to the County Pollworker Program or for employees hired through a temporary agency or as extra help. Allowing for poll workers to receive an hourly-pay as opposed to a daily stipend will allow for flexibility in staffing polling places.

Background:

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and under the Executive Orders of California Governor, Gavin Newsom, Assembly Bill 860 and proposed legislation in Senate Bill 423, the County Elections Division is making significant changes to the upcoming November Election. These changes include, but are not limited to, mailing all active registered voters a ballot; reducing the number of polling locations from 86 to 25+; allowing for computerized voter check-in at the polling locations; providing sanitation and disinfectant equipment at polling places; supplying workers with personal protection equipment (PPE); and enforcing social distancing protocols.

Each of the 25 polling places will have a Facility Lead and four Check-In Clerks staffed by the Elections Office. In addition, there will also be 10-15 polling place support staff (poll workers) that will be responsible for the following: traffic flow control and line management; health screenings; sanitization of vote booths and frequently touched surfaces; instructing voters on COVID-19 safety procedures (i.e. wearing masks, maintaining 6’ social distancing requirements, etc.); assisting with curbside voting; assisting voters by answering questions or assisting in completing forms and vote-by-mail return envelopes; and receiving voted ballots. All staff will receive training on their new roles, as well as, State voting accessibility guidelines and COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

In addition to the increased measures allowing for in-person voting, these polling places will now be open 3 days prior to and including Election Day. They will be open on those 3 days for a minimum of 8 hours and then on Election Day from 7:00am – 8:00pm.

Previously, poll workers were paid a stipend of \$180. This stipend covered not only the time they work on Election Day, but also the time they spent in training. With the shift to multiple days of operation, the proposed resolution is recommending that poll workers receive an hourly compensation of \$16.00 per hour for their hours worked and for training.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

N/A

FTEs:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Return a copy of the minute order and fully executed copy of the proposed resolution to Elaina Cano in the Clerk-Recorder-Assessor Department.

Attachments:

Attachment A –Proposed Resolution Providing for Hourly Compensation for County Poll Workers

Authored by:

Elaina Cano, Elections Division Manager

cc:

Joseph E. Holland, Clerk, Recorder, Assessor and Registrar of Voters

Renee Bischof, Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters