

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/3/03
Department Name: Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Department No.: 062
Agenda Date: 9/16/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Joe Holland
Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
STAFF CONTACT: Jimbo McClure
568-2574
SUBJECT: Update on October 7, 2003 Special Statewide Election

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors: Receive an update on the planning for the Oct 7, 2003 Governor's Recall Special Election.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendation is primarily aligned with actions required by law and/or routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion: On August 12, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor came to the Board and requested that \$800,000 be released from the General Fund Contingency in order to fund the Statewide Special Election on the Governor's Recall Oct 7, 2003. The Board granted that release and requested the department to return mid-September to provide updated status on the conduct and preparation of the Special Election.

Actions underway or completed:

1. Identify and confirm polling locations will be available and ensure they continue to meet applicable standards:

Status = Completed: All polling locations have been check and confirmed. We had 171 polling places for the November 2002 statewide election. We will have 166 for the October 7, 2003 election. There were a few polling locations that had to be changed/consolidated due to the non-availability of the previously used location.

2. Review and determine the number of precincts within each polling location.

Status = Completed: We had 355 precincts for the November 2002 election. We will have 287 precincts for the October 7, 2003 election. We were able to reduce the number of precincts after reviewing trends in precinct turnout along with the increased voting by absentee ballot.

3. Recruit and train poll workers.

Status of recruiting efforts = completed: We have had an amazing response from our previous poll workers and an increased interest in volunteering to become a poll worker....both internal to the county family and from the community at large.

Status of poll worker training = scheduled: Poll worker training is scheduled for the week starting September 29, 2003.

4. Design official ballots (we have two, one for 33rd District and one for 35th District) and sample ballot packages.

Status = completed:

5. Order, receive and distribute various ballots as appropriate.

Status of sample ballots = completed: The Sample Ballot packages were mailed out the first week in September...all mailing were completed by September 8, 2003. Additional Sample Ballots will be mailed to newly registered voters. Approximately 186,000 mailed September 8, 2003.

Status of absentee ballots = underway: The normal distribution period for this election would be between September 8 & 30th. Additional ballots will be mailed as requested. Currently there are over 52,000 permanent absentee voters.

Status of official precinct ballots = underway: Ballots have been ordered, received and are being allocated by precinct.

6. Continue to register voters through September 22, 2003.

Status of voter registration = ongoing: As of August 8, 2003 we had 186,183 registered voters in Santa Barbara County. As of September 3, 2003 we had 186,933 or an increase of 750 registered voters. We will provide data through the middle of month at the September 16, 2003 board meeting.

7. Develop and implement voter outreach programs.

Status of voter outreach = ongoing: We have been focusing considerable resources on these programs. Mr. Holland, Mr. McClure and Mr. Smith have been providing interviews for local newspapers and television programs as well as making themselves available to local community groups. We have been placing ads in local newspapers,

radio and TV mediaplacing voter registration materials in high traffic areas where potential new voters would tend to concentrate....working with local community groups to provide voter registration materials to newly arrived residents.

8. Establish a program and account for the expenses related to the October 7, 2003 election.

Status = ongoing: The Board approved the release of \$800, 000 from the General Fund Contingency to fund this election. We have established program 2004 to account for all related expenses. As of August 30, 2003 we had expenses of between \$70-80K. We will provide updated expenditure data at the September 16th Board meeting.

Mandates and Service Levels: Performing Elections is a mandated County function.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: As presented at the August 12, 2003 BOS meeting, the Department requested \$800,000 in additional funding to support the Statewide Special Election scheduled for October 7, 2003. At this point, our best estimate is that these funds will be sufficient to cover the anticipated increase in cost in the Elections Division.

While there has been some discussion, at the state level, about potential reimbursement to the counties, there has been nothing formalized. We will submit a claim for cost associated with the absentee voter process under the SB-90 program. However, there are no monies programmed in FY 03-04 nor do we expect any funds to be appropriated through the FY 05-06 fiscal years.