




**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: Board of Supervisors
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: December 16, 2025
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Bob Nelson, Fourth District Office
Director(s)
Contact Info: Aaron Hanke, Chief of Staff (805) 346-8422 
SUBJECT: Introduction and Intent to Adopt an Ordinance Adding Section 2-24.11 to the Santa Barbara County Code to Change the Election Timing for the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the introduction (first reading) of an Ordinance of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, State of California, adding Section 2-24.11 to the Santa Barbara County Code to move the election of the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator to the presidential primary cycle;
- b) Read the title and waive full reading of the Ordinance;
- c) Set January 13, 2026, to consider adoption (second reading) of the Ordinance; and
- d) Determine that the above actions are organizational or administrative activities of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Summary:

To maintain the continuity of financial and administrative functions and preserve a staggered election structure used for Supervisorial Districts, the proposed ordinance would:

- Move only the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator to the presidential cycle; and
- Retain the Auditor-Controller and Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters on the gubernatorial cycle.

This staggered approach would ensure that key fiscal and administrative offices do not appear on the same ballot, while aligning the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator with the justice system offices already moved by statute.

One-Time Alignment of the Existing Term

The Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator elected in 2022 is currently scheduled for reelection in 2026. Consistent with Elections Code Section 1300(b)(2), the proposed ordinance provides a one-time extension of the 2022–2026 term to 2022–2028, ending in January 2029. The next election would occur at the 2028 presidential primary, with subsequent elections every four years thereafter (2032, 2036, etc.).

This alignment parallels the approach applied statewide to the Sheriff and District Attorney positions in 2022.

The proposed ordinance adding Section 2-24.11 to the County Code is attached for the Board’s consideration.

If the Board elects not to proceed, the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator will remain on the gubernatorial election cycle and be on the ballot in 2026.

Background:

In 2022, Elections Code Section 1300 was amended to require that elections for the offices of Sheriff and District Attorney be moved from the gubernatorial cycle to the presidential election cycle. The same amendment provides counties with the discretionary authority to move other elective county offices—except the County Superintendent of Schools—to the presidential cycle through adoption of an ordinance.

Santa Barbara County elects five countywide officers pursuant to Elections Code Section 1300: Sheriff, District Attorney, Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, Auditor-Controller, and Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Registrar of Voters. Because only the Sheriff and District Attorney were shifted automatically by state law, the remaining three offices continue as candidates during the gubernatorial cycle unless changed by Board action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposed ordinance.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board shall publish and post notice of the ordinance pursuant to Gov. Code Section 25124, including publication of a summary of the proposed ordinance in the Santa Barbara Independent at least five days prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting at which the proposed ordinance is to be adopted, and within 15 days after adoption of the ordinance, the Clerk of the Board shall publish a summary of the ordinance in the Santa Barbara Independent with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the ordinance.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Ordinance of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, State of California, Adding Section 2-24.11 to the Santa Barbara County Code to Move the Election of the Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator to the Presidential Primary Cycle

Adoption of Ordinance adding County Code Section 2-24.11 – First Reading

December 16, 2025

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Authored by:

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