

# Memorandum

**Date:** October 31, 2008

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** ~~Michael F. Brown, CEO~~

**Subject:** Supplemental Information to November 4<sup>th</sup>,  
2008 Agenda, Item D-7




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*This attachment provides supplemental information regarding anticipated elections through the year 2010 and the legal requirements for placing a tax initiative on a ballot.*

An initiative may be placed on a ballot by a Board of Supervisors Resolution or Ordinance. The Board may set the initiative for a vote of the electorate at a County Special Election or at either the anticipated State Special Election in June 2009 or the General Elections in June (Primary) and November (General) of 2010.

A Special Tax initiative may be placed on a Special Election or a General Election by a majority vote of the Board. "Special Tax" is defined as any tax imposed for specific purposes, including both a tax imposed for specific purposes and set aside in a special fund or a tax imposed for specific purpose, but which is placed into the general fund. A Special Tax requires 2/3 voter approval.

A General Tax initiative may be placed on a General Election but only where a Supervisor is on the ballot for election. It may also be placed on any other election (including Special Elections) if the Board declares an emergency by unanimous vote. "General tax" is defined by Proposition 218 as any tax imposed for general governmental purposes of the County. A General Tax requires only a simple majority vote of the electorate, but a 4/5ths vote of the Board is needed to place it on the general election ballot, or a unanimous vote if placed on a special election ballot.

**Estimated cost of Elections:**

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- I. County Election Only: \$1.5 million
  - II. June 2009 State Special Election: \$250 thousand
  - III. June 2010 or November 2010 General Elections: \$80 thousand
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