

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

216



FROM: Registrar of Voters

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Statewide Special Election Preparation Update

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the attached report.

BACKGROUND: The attached report is presented to update the Board on the Registrar of Voters preparation for the conduct of the Statewide Special Election. The election was called 88 days in advance of the May 19, 2009 election date.

Barbara Dunmore

Barbara Dunmore
Registrar of Voters

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY: *Jennifer L. Sargent*

Jennifer L. Sargent
County Executive Office Signature

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

2009-04-02 10:31

Statewide Special Election Preparation Update

Senate Bill 19

Senate Bill 19, signed by the Governor on February 20th, set a Statewide Special Election for May 19, 2009. Six statewide propositions (1A-1F) will appear on the ballot in Riverside County. Desert Hot Springs voters will vote on an additional local measure, Measure A.

While the Governor acknowledged when signing the bill that calling a special election does not come without costs to California counties (see Attachment A), the State has not yet agreed to reimburse counties for the election. Realizing that all levels of government are facing budget constraints, the Registrar of Voters is using existing inventory to exhaust supplies and making other adjustments where practical, to reduce costs.

Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote for the May 19th election is **May 4, 2009**. County residents can verify their voter registration status online at www.voteinfo.net. An interactive registration card is also available online for ease of use. After entering the required information, the card is printed out, signed and mailed to the Registrar's office to complete the registration process.

In March 2009, voter registration exceeded 850,000 in the county.

Ballot Types

There are only two ballot types for this election in Riverside County. All voters, with the exception of voters in Desert Hot Springs, will receive a ballot containing only the six statewide propositions. Desert Hot Springs voters will receive a ballot containing the six statewide propositions and their local measure placed on the ballot by the city.

Military and Overseas Voters

Military and voters overseas are sent their vote-by-mail ballots early to allow sufficient time for the ballot to reach the voter and be voted and returned by Election Day. Military and overseas voters can fax their voted ballots to the Registrar's office in accordance with Elections Code § 3103.5. Stateside military voters deployed within 7 days of an election also qualify to fax their ballot to the Registrar.

Ballots for the May 19th election were mailed to military and overseas voters on March 27th.

State-issued Voter Information Guides

The Secretary of State mails each household with a registered voter an official Voter Information Guide (VIG). The VIG contains impartial analyses of the proposed law(s), potential costs to taxpayers, arguments in favor of and against all ballot measures prepared by the proponents and opponents, and summaries and text of the proposed law(s).

The Registrar of Voters website (www.voteinfo.net) contains a link to the state-Voter Information Guide. In addition, the Registrar will mail large print copies and audio versions of the VIG to voters upon request.

The Secretary of State expects to mail VIGs to voters around April 9th.

County-issued Sample Ballot and Information Pamphlets

Polling Place Voters

The Registrar of Voters prepares a Sample Ballot and Information Pamphlet for county voters. The Pamphlet usually contains candidate statements and arguments submitted for local measures. However, since only state measures will appear on the ballot, the Pamphlet for the May 19th election merely contains a facsimile of the official ballot. Voters are encouraged to mark their selections on the facsimile ballot and take it with them to the polls and refer to it when completing their official ballot. The back cover lists the assigned polling location for polling place voters.

Vote-by-Mail and Mail Ballot Precincts

Permanent vote-by-mail voters (VBM) and voters assigned to mail ballot precincts receive their official ballot in the mail. Instructions on completing and returning their official ballot are included with the mailing. The state-issued VIG contains the information on the state propositions. VBM and mail precinct voters will receive a county-issued Sample Ballot Pamphlet upon request only for the May 19th election. The Registrar of Voters estimates a cost savings of \$150,000 resulting from the reduced printing and mailing of Sample Ballot Pamphlets to these voters.

Desert Hot Springs

Voters in Desert Hot Springs will be voting on a local utility user tax measure (Measure A). Therefore, all voters in Desert Hot Springs will receive a copy of the Sample Ballot and Information Pamphlet since it will contain the impartial analysis and arguments for and against the measure.

Copies of the Pamphlet are available on the Registrar of Voters website at www.voteinfo.net. Recent enhancements to the website allow viewers to increase the on screen print size of the Pamphlet for ease of viewing. In addition, the Registrar will mail large print copies to voters upon request.

The first day the Registrar of Voters may mail Sample Ballot and Information Pamphlets to voters is April 9th.

Mail Ballot Precincts

There are 442 mail ballot precincts for this election. Voters are assigned to mail ballot precincts where there are insufficient registered voters in an area to warrant establishing a polling place.

Polling Places

There are 484 polling places for this election. Each polling place will be staffed with 4 precinct board members. Locations accommodating multiple precincts will be staffed with an extra member to direct voters to the correct precinct check-in table. Each polling precinct will be equipped with 4 standard voting booths, an accessible voting booth, and an electronic accessible voting unit (AVU). Voters will be presented the option of voting a paper ballot or using the AVU.

Early Voting

Early voting will be offered in the Registrar of Voters office:

April 20th to May 18th – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 16th – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 19th – Election Day, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

An AVU will be available upon request.

Collection Centers

Twenty one (21) collection centers will be established Election Night throughout the county to aggregate ballots and elections supplies for return to the Registrar of Voters. All enhanced chain of custody recommendations for collection centers contained in the BB&K Election Report Review presented to the Board on March 3, 2009 are being implemented for the May 19th election.

Ballot Counting

Initial semi-official results for the election will be released shortly after 8 p.m. on Election Night. The first update to the initial results is dependent upon voted ballots arriving at the Registrar of Voters office. It is estimated the first update will be posted by 9:15 p.m. Subsequent postings will be hourly.

Ballot counting will be video streamed live beginning at 7:45 p.m. Election Night on the Registrar of Voters website at www.voteinfo.net

Post-Election Canvass

The post-election canvassing of the votes begins May 21st. To curtail costs, the Registrar of Voters plans to conduct the canvass during regular work hours only. Eliminating overtime and weekend hours will extend the canvass and certification of the election, but is expected to reduce costs by up to \$120,000.

All post-election canvass activities will be completed, including the 100% manual tally, by the certification deadline of June 16, 2009.



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

FEB 20 2009

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 19 of the Third Extraordinary Session.

This bill is a crucial component of the recently approved budget package. It calls for a May 19 special election to consider six important initiatives, including a constitutional amendment to enact a rainy day budget stabilization fund.

However, calling a special election does not come without costs to California counties. As such, I am signing this measure with the understanding that the Legislature will reimburse counties for the costs of the election as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

