



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 26, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support SB 519 (Emmerson).** This measure would require the State to pay for expenses incurred between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013 for certain special elections. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals to provide counties reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal legislative offices, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 519.**
- **Status of County Advocacy Legislation**
 - **County-opposed AB 194 (Campos)** – related to the Brown Act which would create a misdemeanor if the chairperson of a local legislative body prohibits public criticism of the agency's services and activities, is now a two-year bill.

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- **County-supported AB 272 (Gomez)** – related to rabies vaccinations for dogs passed the Assembly Floor on April 25, 2013 and now proceeds to the Senate.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 519 (Emmerson), as amended on April 1, 2013, would require the State to reimburse counties for expenses authorized and incurred between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013, for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy for the office of Senator or Member of the Assembly, or to fill a vacancy in the office of United States Senator or Member of the House of Representatives. This bill is an urgency measure and would take effect immediately if enacted.

Existing law provides that expenses authorized and incurred in the preparation for and conduct of elections are to be paid from the county treasuries, except as specified.

As amended, SB 519 would address the issue of unreimbursed special elections and would require the State to reimburse counties for necessary expenses for certain special elections held between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013. The bill would cover elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the offices of State Senate, State Assembly, United States Senate, or United States House of Representatives.

According to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), the County conducts numerous special vacancy elections, the costs of which are borne by the County. Between 2007 and 2011, the County ran eleven special elections at a total cost of \$16.7 million. RR/CC indicates they are currently working to conduct a special vacancy election in Senate District 32. On March 12, 2013, RR/CC conducted the special primary election for the District, at an estimated cost of \$560,000. Because no candidate received a majority of the vote necessary to win the election, the County is conducting a special general election on May 14, 2013. The total costs to the County for filling that vacancy are estimated at \$1.2 million. The Department further indicates that it will likely conduct additional special vacancy elections this year, including potential elections for State Assembly District 45 and State Senate District 26. Based on past special vacancy elections for State Senate Districts, conducting a primary and/or general election can cost \$3.0 million or more.

On May 26, 2009, the Board directed the County's Sacramento advocates to pursue legislation to fully support the reimbursement of costs associated with the conduct of special vacancy elections for State legislative and Congressional seats.

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On January 31, 2011, **County-sponsored SB 141 (Price)**, with language identical to SB 519, was introduced to address this concern but failed to pass out of the Senate.

This office and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk support SB 519. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in State and Federal legislative offices, **the Sacramento advocates will support SB 519.**

SB 519 is sponsored by San Bernardino County. At this time, there is no registered support or opposition on file.

The bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee on April 30, 2013.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-opposed AB 194 (Campos), which as introduced on January 28, 2013, would make it a misdemeanor for the chairperson of a legislative body of a local agency to prohibit public criticism of the agency's services and activities, was held in the Assembly Government Organization Committee on April 18, 2013 at the request of the author, and is now a two-year bill.

County-supported AB 272 (Gomez), which as introduced on February 7, 2013, would change the age at which dogs may be vaccinated for rabies from four months of age to three months of age or older, passed the Assembly Floor, on consent, by a vote of 75 to 0 on April 25, 2013. This measure now proceeds to the Senate.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:KA:KL:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
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