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TO: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles City Council

The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor
City of Los Angeles

Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles

Miguel Santana, Chief Administrative Officer
City of Los Angeles

FROM: Dean C. Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Holly Wolcott, Los Angeles City Clerk

2020 Election Consolidation Update

This is the first report from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RRCC) and the Los Angeles City Clerk (Clerk) on our collaborative efforts towards consolidating the elections of both the City of Los Angeles (City) and the Los Angeles Unified School District (District) with the election run by the County of Los Angeles (County) beginning in 2020.

Our joint working group has continued these discussions in a productive manner and also formed subgroups to focus on eight critical areas of the transition process. These subgroups met on October 29, 2015, to discuss specific, key areas impacting the future consolidation. This was an important step in laying the foundation for developing future plans and creating transition roles and assignments for a successful election consolidation in 2020.

Joint Working Subgroups

The following eight subgroups were created to begin identifying and prioritizing important areas of the consolidation: Legal, Candidates, Translation, Petitions, Voter Information Pamphlet (VIP), Outreach, Pollworkers/Polling Locations, and Fiscal/Billing. These subgroups met and engaged in highly interactive discussions that provided useful information to build the framework for future discussions. While this first meeting was productive, the consensus

Joint Working Subgroups (Cont'd)

among the attendees was the need for continued coordination to define roles, relationships, assignments, costs, timelines and agreements between the City and County.

Subgroup One: Legal
This subgroup, which in addition to the staff from RRCC and Clerk, also included members from the Office of the County Counsel and the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney. This group was tasked with ensuring that the process moving forward is consistent with the rules and requirements of each jurisdiction as well as with the California Elections Code. They stressed the need to focus on defining the roles and relationship between County and City assignments and contractual agreements. Changes to the State Elections Code, the County Code and/or the City Charter could possibly be needed in the future but this will not be known until after the roles and responsibilities of each entity are further defined.

Subgroup Two: Candidates
This subgroup is charged with reviewing candidate filing processes and campaign finance rules. It was discussed that post-consolidation the Clerk may continue to conduct the City's candidate filing and campaign finance reporting for its municipal and school district elections as is currently done. It is also expected that the Clerk will continue to conduct workshops for its candidates and that RRCC's published materials will serve as supplemental/support information. Regarding City candidate statements, this information is prohibited from appearing in voting materials. Consequently, such information produced by RRCC will not be published in sample ballots for City ballot groups. The Clerk may continue to publish candidate statements on the City's website. This subgroup will continue to coordinate and prioritize filing, processing, and examination responsibilities and determine which of these periods overlap.

Subgroup Three: Translation
This subgroup discussed the current language requirements and translation roles of each agency. The Clerk provides materials and assistance in the following languages that that the County does not currently provide: Russian, Farsi and Armenian. Clarification was also sought on who will do the Sample Ballot translations moving forward. The subgroup will continue to define the roles of each agency moving forward with respect to translation services.

Subgroup Four: Petitions
This subgroup discussed the City petition process, which is separate from the County process. The Clerk may continue to be the filing officer for local initiatives; and will continue to handle City and LAUSD candidate nomination papers. The Clerk will also continue to handle the filing for recalls and signature verification. The City may need to change the charter if the city wants to request assistance from the County to perform petition functions. The subgroup will continue to analyze the City charter and California codes relating to recall petitions.

Subgroup Five: Voter Information Pamphlet
This subgroup focused on the mailing, printing and translation of the VIP. It was discussed that the Clerk will still continue prepare the City's VIP. The subgroup also discussed processing measure text, arguments, ballot simplification and ballot pages for the VIP. The County offers cities an optional voter notice that may not be provided for in City charter regulations for sample ballot preparation. Timeline for delivery of ballot summaries and future responsibility of the VIP still need to be defined.

Subgroup Six: Outreach
This subgroup focused on the outreach that will be needed for this future transition. A media and education campaign will need to begin following the 2017 City election and continue through the 2020 consolidated election to inform voters. Aspects of the education campaign should include the following: direct voter communication via all media outlets (traditional and online), social media, and town hall style meetings. The roles and responsibilities of this important component need to be further examined and defined.

Subgroup Seven: Pollworkers/Polling locations
This subgroup examined the future needs for both pollworkers and polling locations in a consolidated election. Like the County, the City also currently benefits from use of its employees as pollworkers. The group discussed the possible need of this pool of pollworkers moving forward and if the City would continue to allow its employees to be used after the consolidation. The City's current polling locations were also discussed and that they would greatly improve the County's pool of Election Day facilities. The benefits of these potential combined resources will continue to be explored.

Subgroup Eight: Fiscal/Billing
This subgroup was tasked with examining fiscal and billing component of this consolidation. Like the legal discussion, the future roles and responsibilities of each agency need to be defined prior to determining any future billing structure. The RRCC's current election billing process was explained and discussed. The RRCC is also examining a new fee structure that could change the way election billing is handled. Any new fee structure would need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Billing would not change until after any new fee structure is adopted and implemented.

Next Steps

During the coming months, the joint working group's efforts will focus on organizing follow-up subgroup meetings to continue to identify major priorities and potential opportunities to strengthen the execution of this effort. The subsequent meetings will allow the teams to get into more details in these areas and further expand on the discussion points highlighted above. The teams will also continue to develop specific roles, plans and timelines to follow through on their recommendations.

About this Project

In March 2015, the voters of the City approved Charter Amendments 1 and 2, which among other things changed the City's and District's primary and general election dates to June and November of even-numbered years beginning in 2020 so that City elections are held on the same dates as federal and State elections. This timeframe is also aligned with the County's planned implementation of a new voting system.

While the Charter Amendments changed the City's and District's election dates they did not automatically consolidate the City and County-run elections. Left unaddressed this would lead to a concurrent voting situation where City voters would vote in two separate elections on the same day, a City election and the County's consolidated election. This type of scenario could

About this Project (Cont'd)

lead to significant voter confusion and is not in the best interest of the public or in the spirit of the intent of the Charter Amendments.

In September 2015, RRCC and Clerk commenced steps to address this concern with the formation of a cross jurisdictional working group to move towards consolidation in 2020. Consolidating the election of the largest jurisdiction in the County requires a significant amount of planning, so the RRCC and Clerk proactively initiated a cooperative process early to ensure a smooth transition. This process has allowed the working group to identify priority issues, leverage resources, and establish clear responsibilities.

The RRCC and Clerk remain committed to making this a successful election transition and will continue to provide ongoing reports on the progress of this effort. If you have any questions please contact me directly or your staff may contact Aaron Nevarez, Executive Assistant, at (562) 462-2800 or Holly Wolcott, City Clerk at (213) 978-1020.