

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL  
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August 4, 2020

**Structural Changes for the November 2020 Election**

The County learned several lessons from the March 2020 Presidential Primary Election. In the two after action reports, one of which was completed by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the other that was independently commissioned by the Board of Supervisors, both reports identified specific capacity and resource issues that need to be addressed in advance of the November 2020 Presidential General Election. The first issue that needs to be addressed is Election Workers staffing capacity including enhanced training and increases in the number of workers assigned per Vote Center. The second issue was excessive wait times on Election Day which was exacerbated by voters underutilizing the eleven day early voting period. Though we are unsure on how the pandemic and the ability of all voters to vote by mail will affect in-person voting, the County should do everything it can to address the challenges that were identified in the March 2020 Election. It is also important to recognize the challenge that the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is having in securing Vote Centers and recruiting Election Workers given the nature and difficulties of the COVID-19 environment.

**MOTION**

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In order to address these issues in advance of the November 2020 Presidential General Election, the County should consider utilizing its Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Program and deploy County employees as Election Workers. Administering a successful Presidential election is an essential, core function of the County directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. County DSWs are uniquely positioned to fill this short, time-bound service role. Additionally, utilizing DSWs for this purpose was specifically referenced in the Governor's Executive Order modifying the administration of the election in response to the pandemic. This will help to ensure adequate staffing capacity, appropriate training and improved distribution of Election Worker during the voting period. Also, given what we have learned about voter behavior from analyzing March 2020 Election data and the directives in the Governor's Executive Order, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk should prioritize their efforts on securing sufficient vote center locations and staffing on the weekend and Monday proceeding the election and on Election Day.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions regarding Election Worker staffing for the November 2020 Election:

- Temporarily suspend the County Employee Election Worker Program and instead adopt the County Disaster Service Worker Election Worker Program; and
- Direct the Chief Executive Office of Emergency Management to work with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the Department of Human Resources, and County Counsel to immediately implement the new DSW Program, including mandatory Departmental deployment thresholds.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions regarding Vote Center locations for the November 2020 Election:

- Direct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to implement a Vote Center model consistent with the Governor's Executive Order that focuses on high-quality locations and services over the final four to five days of the voting period; and
- Direct the Chief Executive Office to communicate with County Departments, cities, school districts and other municipal entities about the importance and necessity of utilizing public facilities as Vote Centers.

S:MM/Structural Changes for the November 2020 Election