COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
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CONNY B. McCORMACK
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

March 16, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

REQUEST FROM WESTSIDE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONSOLIDATE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS WITH THE GENERAL STATEWIDE ELECTION

Westside Union School District is requesting that your Board authorize the consolidation of its Board Member elections with the General Statewide elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year. There are currently no Los Angeles County school districts that consolidate with the November even-numbered year General Elections.

Your Board's policy since 1981, reaffirmed by resolution in January 1987 and by subsequent Board action throughout 2004, has been to deny requests for consolidation of local elections with statewide Primary or General elections. This policy is based on the finite ballot capacity of the County's past and current voting systems (i.e. Votomatic punch card and InkaVote optical scan systems, respectively).

Because these systems have limited space for election contests and ballot propositions and because statewide election ballots are so long and complex, allowing other jurisdictions to consolidate their regular elections on either of those dates invites the very real probability that there would be insufficient space on the ballot to accommodate all the election contests from numerous requesting jurisdictions. We encourage jurisdictions to consolidate with the November odd-year election cycle (UDEL) because it guarantees sufficient ballot space as statewide races are not scheduled on that date. Westside Union School District's Board Member elections are currently held on the UDEL along with all other County school districts.

The County's 88 cities, 85 school districts and numerous other jurisdictions within the County cannot all be accommodated on the Primary or General election dates; your Board's policy of denying specific requests for exceptions to the established policy has preserved fairness in the County's relationship with all jurisdictions within its boundaries.

For the reasons outlined above, we recommend that your Board deny the School District's request.