

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

AUGUST 7, 2007

During the fall of 2005, this Board directed County staff to upgrade its enforcement of Proposition B, the County’s Campaign Finance Reform measure which was approved by the voters in November, 1996. As part of this effort, the Registrar-Recorder announced her intention to establish an electronic campaign finance filing system utilizing a program that had already been developed by the City of Los Angeles. That system includes all the capabilities necessary for campaign treasurers to file their campaign finance reports on-line, and also allows viewers to search and cross-reference the material in a variety of useful ways. The City and the County had been discussing this matter since 2003, and by the time the Board of Supervisors addressed the issue in fall, 2005 the County had secured funding as well as the City’s agreement to license the system to us. Implementation was anticipated in time for the June, 2006 Primary Election.

Unfortunately, differences between the City’s and the County’s information technology “platforms” and computer code delayed the implementation of the County’s system by a year, and it did not “go live” until June, 2007. As of today, no information is posted on the system, although it is anticipated that campaign treasurers will utilize the electronic filing capability and file their January-June, 2007 reports directly onto the

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system by the July 31 deadline (the County will enter the material into the system for those treasurers who do not do it themselves). Even so, the system will at that point contain only these 2007 reports; it will not go back in time and “pick up” earlier reports.

In order to make the campaign finance reporting system truly useful, the County should take the time and spend the resources necessary to enter all the information that has been filed since the enactment of Proposition B in 1996. The Registrar-Recorder estimates that this would require hiring four data entry workers and one supervisor for up to four months, for a total cost of \$72,309. The County should make this minimal expenditure in order to truly fulfill the mission of Proposition B.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk be instructed to hire the necessary personnel to enter into the newly-created electronic Campaign Finance Reporting System, all campaign finance data reported to her office by the campaigns of candidates for County offices since the provisions of Proposition B went into effect.

ABK: Campaign Contribution Database2