COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
12400 Imperial Highway – P.O. Box 1024, Norwalk, California 90651-1024 – www.lavote.net

DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

August 7, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer

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

COST ESTIMATE AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS FOR CONDUCTING A CONCURRENT COUNTYWIDE ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008

In testimony at the August 5, 2008 Board meeting on Agenda Item 52 – Request from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to consolidate a Special Election with the Statewide General Election to be held on November 4, 2008, I provided a qualified preliminary estimate of the costs of conducting a separate, concurrent election on the MTA measure. Additionally, in response to questions about the mechanics of conducting two simultaneous elections, I indicated I would report back to your board on the technical and operational impacts of conducting a concurrent election.

Upon further review, it is now clear that the costs of conducting a concurrent election would be considerably higher than the preliminary estimate. Our estimate for the cost to the MTA for a consolidated election was $7.2 million (originally estimated in May). This estimate is subject to change and may be reduced once all consolidations are identified for the election after next week's deadline. Costs of conducting a separate and concurrent election on the MTA measure are estimated to be in the range of $17.5 million (see attached). The effect of conducting a concurrent election is essentially a duplication of the materials, staffing and resources necessary to conduct a countywide election. These dynamics are more significant when contemplating a concurrent election with the November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election where all existing materials, resources and staff are already allocated. A summarized cost estimate for the concurrent election scenario is attached for your reference.

Practically speaking, in order to conduct a concurrent election, the MTA election would have to be set up and defined as an entirely separate election. Our voting systems do not have the capability of simultaneously tracking and distinguishing between two elections conducted on the same date without setting them up as completely separate and unique elections. In addition to printing separate ballots, a concurrent election would require mailing separate sample ballots; processing and tracking separate vote by mail ballot requests; conducting separate vote by mail ballot mailings; printing and distributing separate voter rosters and election supplies; recruiting and placing additional two-person poll worker boards at each of the County's 4,300+ polling locations, a separate, standalone vote tabulation programming and reporting process; and conducting an isolated canvass and certification for each of the concurrent elections.

My understanding is that the County has had minimal experience with a scenario of this nature. Past concurrent elections where both elections were administered by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk have been in very small jurisdictions as opposed to countywide; nor has a concurrent election ever been conducted during a Presidential General Election. The more familiar model of concurrent elections has been where another election official has conducted their election concurrent with the County's election (i.e. the City of Los Angeles or the City of Long Beach); whereas in the case of the MTA, I serve as the election official for both jurisdictions conducting the elections.

Given the nature and dynamics of the Presidential General Election, there are significant risks associated with conducting a concurrent countywide election on November 4, 2008. Projections are that the Presidential General Election will draw record-breaking voter turnout. Additionally, our Departmental resources and facilities will be stretched to maximum capacity. For the Presidential General Election alone, we will process more voter registration applications, vote by mail ballot requests, vote by mail ballots and provisional ballots than the Department has processed in any past election. The number of poll workers to be recruited, trained and placed at polling locations exceeds all past elections as well. Tabulation of the voted ballots contemplates full use of all precinct-based voting equipment (ballot readers and accessible voting units) and use of all central tabulation ballot readers at our Norwalk Headquarters. Conducting a concurrent election will require a redeployment of equipment and resources that will impact the administration and timely reporting of results for the Presidential General Election.

The cost estimate attached includes the costs of duplicate materials, separate ballot printing, mailing and canvassing. These costs are estimated based on a standard election calendar where our products and materials are a part of vendor production and work queues. The timeframes associated with this election may result in increased costs resulting from changes to production schedules outside of our control. Costs not yet contemplated in the estimate include the need for leasing additional facilities, increased staffing levels to support a concurrent countywide election and costs associated with voter education and awareness on the concurrent election procedures. While the magnitude of a countywide election on the MTA ballot measure would not mirror that of the Presidential General Election, these needs and their associated costs are significant and will be extremely difficult to coordinate under the legal deadlines and operational timeframes associated with November 4, 2008 election date.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know of any additional information or clarification you may need. Should a concurrent election occur, we will need to work closely with each of your offices to ensure the best possible service and outreach to the voters of Los Angeles County.

Enclosure

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ESTIMATE ONLY

ELECTION: MTA CONCURRENT WITH NOVEMBER 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

REGISTERED VOTERS	4,076,023
VOTING PRECINCTS	4,382
MEASURE	1
AGENCIES SHARING	1
SECURING BOARDS AND POLLS	$1,121,000
BOARD MEMBER PAYROLL	1,257,000
OFFICIAL BALLOTS	508,000
VOTE RECORDER ASSEMBLY	155,000
SUPPLY PROCESSING	405,000
DELIVERY AND MILEAGE	368,000
MAILING AND POSTAGE	595,000
VOTE BY MAIL PROCESSING	3,914,000
OFFICIAL CANVASS	731,000
PRECINCTING	6,000
ELECTION SUPPLIES	35,000
BALLOT MATERIAL PROCESSING	224,000
ELECTION DAY COSTS	1,191,000
PUBLICATION	12,000
PRINTING	6,963,000
ELECTION PREPARATION	15,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	**$17,500,000**