Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

August 30, 2016

TO: Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer

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

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT ON POLLWORKER STIPENDS

At the Board of Supervisors meeting of August 2, 2016, Supervisor Antonovich instructed the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) to review correspondence submitted by Mr. David Mack related to stipend compensation of the County's Poll Worker program and report back to the Board.

This memo is in response to the two letters from Mr. Mack, dated June 17 and July 29, 2016, regarding the County's poll worker stipend. Mr. Mack contends that in addition to inflation devaluating the stipend, the RR/CC has placed additional requirements on poll workers and extended the training time.

Poll workers are volunteers that are paid a stipend to cover their incidental expenses for providing services at designated polling locations throughout the County. Currently, the County's Pollworker stipend is $100 for an Inspector and $80 for a Clerk. These rates have been in effect since June 2006, when the Board approved a $25 stipend increase.

Past Analysis and Cost Impact

The issue of a stipend increase was previously raised by a member of the public at a Board meeting in July 2015, and the RR/CC in conjunction with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) addressed the matter in a September 2015 memo to the Board. Based on that request, an analysis of other county and city stipends was conducted and it was determined that an increase of $50 for Inspector stipends and $20 for Clerk stipends was reasonable. The estimated cost impact to the County to increase the stipends from $100 to $150 (Inspector) and $80 to $100 (Clerk) would be approximately $598,000 for a Primary election and

Past Analysis and Cost Impact (Cont'd)

$524,000 for a General Election. The stipend for attending in-person training would remain at $25.

Recommendation

The CEO concurred that the proposed increase was reasonable and recommended its consideration as part of the FY 2016-17 budget cycle. As such, an increase of $823,000 in appropriation and revenue to fund poll worker stipends was included in the RR/CC's FY 2016-17 Supplemental Changes request. This request was submitted to the CEO on July 28, 2016. This amount is for the above proposed increases, as well as a $15 increase (from $25 to $40) for Inspector and Clerks to attend in-person training.

The stipend increase has to be approved by your Board. The RR/CC is currently working on a Board Letter with appropriate language regarding the CEO's funding approval included in Supplemental Changes with no additional NCC. The RR/CC contends that the increase in the stipend amounts would provide the requested financial relief for poll workers, allow the County to remain competitive with other counties and local cities, as well as assist in the increasingly difficult task of recruiting poll workers.

If you have any questions or require further information on this matter, please feel free to contact me at (562) 462-2716.

c: Lori Glasgow, Executive Officer
David Mack