

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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Online Candidate Statement Pilot Program

The availability of election information, including candidate statements, is important for Los Angeles County voters to make informed decisions when casting a ballot. For years, Los Angeles County has provided such information in the Sample Ballots mailed to voters for every election. Unfortunately, given the size and diversity of Los Angeles County voters, the costs for printing candidate statements can be costly and burdensome for some candidates, leading to instances where voters only receive statements from candidates who have the resources to have them printed.

To increase voter access to candidate statements, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk should pilot Online Candidate Statements for the upcoming 2022 Primary and General Elections. These electronic statements are not only less costly to produce but offer increased accessibility to more voters, as they increasingly use technology as their primary election information source. California Elections Code authorizes elections officials to permit electronic candidate statements, provided that the governing body of

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the local agency permits candidates to submit candidate statements for electronic posting and distribution. The pilot implementation should allow for Online Candidate Statements to be published for nonpartisan County offices and judicial positions as authorized by California Elections Code and should be used to gather information regarding costs, candidate adoption and voter usage to inform possible expansion or updates in future election cycles.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Permit candidates for nonpartisan County offices and judicial positions to prepare and submit Online Candidate Statements to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with California Elections Code section 13307(c)(1).
2. Direct the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to 1) implement a pilot program for Online Candidate Statements for the 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election (June 7, 2022) and 2022 General Election (November 8, 2022) and 2) report back in writing with results of the pilot program and recommendations for continuing and expanding the program within 90 days of certification of the General Election.

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