

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Approve Receipt of State Funding Under Senate Bill 111 to Expediate the Vote Counting Process and Provide Voter Outreach and Education for the November 3, 2026 General Election

This past June, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) successfully administered the June 2, 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election amid intense public and media pressure to report results more quickly. Voter turnout reached 37.81 percent, approximately 10 percentage points higher than both the 2024 Presidential Primary Election and the 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election, resulting in more than 2.2 million ballots cast and processed.

Despite the significantly higher volume, the RR/CC processed more than 99 percent of all ballots included in the final certified results within seven days of Election Day, establishing a new departmental benchmark for timely ballot processing. As expectations for timely election results continue to grow, additional State funding is critical to sustaining the staffing, equipment, technology, and operational capacity needed to maintain — and further improve — ballot-processing timelines while preserving the accuracy, security, and integrity of the canvass.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 111 (SB 111) (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2026), amending the Budget Act of 2026, approved and filed June 29, 2026, the California Department of Finance appropriated \$34 million statewide to counties to expedite the vote counting process and to provide voter outreach and education for the November 3, 2026, Statewide General Election. On August 4, 2026, the Department of Finance directed the

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Horvath	_____
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Barger	_____
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State Controller's Office to remit these funds directly to county elections officials, allocating \$8,000,000 to Los Angeles County. This funding includes \$6,823,529.39 to expedite the vote counting process, including by increasing the number of available staff to tabulate votes, making equipment purchases or technology upgrades, acquiring space to accommodate additional staff or equipment purchases to expedite the vote counting process; and \$1,176,470.61 for voter outreach and education.

The participating counties anticipate needing to provide documentation showing that the County registrar or designee has delegated authority from their governing body to contract or work with the Secretary of State to receive reimbursement under SB 111.

Because this funding was announced roughly three months before Election Day, the County, through the RR/CC, has a significantly compressed window to utilize the available funding to procure equipment, staffing, and vendor services needed to expedite vote counting, including the purchase of BlueCrest Automated Signature Review (ASR) machines and iBML scanners for ballot processing. A standard competitive procurement process could not reliably deliver this equipment and these services in time for the November 3, 2026, Statewide General Election.

To ensure the County can put this funding to use before the November 3, 2026, election, the RR/CC needs authority to receive the State funds without delay and to pursue sole-source purchase orders as necessary to meet procurement deadlines. More specifically, the RR/CC is seeking delegated authority to pursue sole-source purchases to acquire one BlueCrest ASR machine and two iBML scanners, which would enable the RR/CC to increase the capacity to process vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots by an additional 135,000 ballots per hour on the BlueCrest ASR machine, and by up to 45,000 VBM ballots per hour on the iBML scanners.

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RR/CC is further requesting approval for SB 111 State funding that has become recently available to the County to be applied towards the purchase of a BlueCrest ASR machine previously approved by the Board and allow the previously approved Chief Information Office funding for the machine to be applied towards the purchase of another BlueCrest ASR machine to further expedite vote count processing activities in future elections.

The November 2026 general election includes many key races that will determine leadership at the local, state, and federal level. Therefore, it is critical to provide RR/CC the resources it needs to produce accurate results quickly to meet voter expectations and limit misconceptions about the ballot tabulation process.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Delegate authority to and authorize the RR/CC, or designee, as agent of the County, to conduct all negotiations, and execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, agreements and amendments, which may be necessary to receive State funds under SB 111 to expedite the vote counting process and support voter outreach and education for the November 3, 2026, Statewide General Election;
2. Authorize the RR/CC, or designee, to execute purchases orders for materials, services, equipment and/or machines necessary to expedite vote processing activities, including sole-source purchases as necessary to meet the November 3, 2026, Statewide General Election deadline; provided that, prior to executing purchases exceeding \$250,000 under this delegated authority, RR/CC shall notify the Board in writing of its intent to proceed. If no objection is received from

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the Board in five (5) business days of such notification, RR/CC may proceed with the execution of the purchase;

3. Authorize that SB 111 funding the County receives may be applied towards the BlueCrest ASR machine previously approved, and that the previously approved Chief Information Office funding for that BlueCrest ASR machine may be applied towards the purchase of another BlueCrest ASR machine that will be used to further expedite vote count processing activities in future elections.

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