



Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: June 17, 2008

TO: Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: Donna N. Terrones, CMC
City Clerk
d_terrones@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Notice Of General Municipal Election On November 4, 2008;
Request To Board Of Supervisors To Consolidate The Election;
And Adoption of City Council Policy Requiring Deposits For
Candidates' Statements

RECOMMENDATION: that the City Council adopt the following Resolutions pertaining to the November 4, 2008 election for Mayor and two Councilmembers.

- A. Adopt Resolution No. 5477(08), Calling and Giving Notice of the Holding of a General Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, for the election of Mayor and two Councilmembers;
- B. Adopt Resolution No. 5478(08), Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara to Consolidate a General Municipal Election of the City to be held on November 4, 2008, with services to be provided by the County; and
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 5479(08), Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office, Pertaining to and Costs of Candidates' Statements for the Consolidated General Municipal Election. (Approval of Resolution No. 5478(08) will require each candidate filing a Candidate's Statement pay a deposit; and retain the 200-word limit on Candidates' Statements of Qualifications.)

DISCUSSION

The terms for Mayor DeWees and Councilmembers Holmdahl and Schuyler expire this year. The Consolidated General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Lompoc on November 4, 2008, for the purpose of electing a Mayor for a full term of two (2) years; and two (2) members of the City Council for the full terms of four (4) years.

For many years the City has engaged the services of the County Elections Department to conduct a consolidated election for the Mayor and Members of the City Council. Resolution Nos. 5477(08) and 5478(08) pertain to the notice of the Election and request the County's services for conducting the Election.

Candidates Statements

Section 13307 (attached) of the Elections Code of the State of California provides that the governing body of the local agency adopt regulations as stated in Resolution No. 5479(08) pertaining to materials, including the cost thereof, prepared by any candidate to be included in the voters' pamphlet. All candidates that wish to have a Candidate's Statement published in the voters' pamphlet will be required to pay a deposit in advance to the City of Lompoc.

Since 1986, Council has directed the City Clerk to estimate the total costs of printing, handling, and translating the candidates' statements, pursuant to the Elections Code, and require each candidate filing a statement to pay, in advance, his or her pro rata share as a condition of having his or her statement included in the voters' pamphlet. The City Clerk is then directed to bill each candidate for any cost in excess of the deposit and refund, within 30 days following the election, any unused portion of the deposit.

The Elections Code provides that, upon policy set by the Council, the word count of the Statement of Qualifications may be increased from 200 to 400 words. However, an increase to 400 words is not recommended because it would greatly increase printing costs, which must be borne by either the City or the candidate.

Based on actual costs related to the Candidates' Statements during recent elections, and the projected costs from the County elections office, staff recommends a deposit of \$900.00. The County Elections Department stated it is much easier to collect a deposit in advance then after the elections.

The estimated cost for Lompoc this year for a full page with just two candidates' statements is \$893.48 each and, with just one candidate's statement, the amount would increase.

Previous Cost of Printing Candidates Statements with a 200-Word Count

Year	Deposit	Actual Costs Mayor / Council	Refunds to Candidates
1998	\$900.00	\$586.03/ \$334.02	\$313.97 - Mayor \$565.98 - Council
2000	\$940.00 Mayor paid \$63.81 extra	\$1003.81/\$344.09	\$0 - Mayor \$595.91 - Council
2002	\$900.00	\$439.77/\$338.91	\$460.23 – Mayor \$561.09 - Council
2004	\$900.00	\$636.44/\$526.36	\$263.56– Mayor \$373.64- Council
2006	\$900.00	\$ 481.72/\$284.22	\$418.28-Mayor \$615.78-Council

Background Election Information

As noted on the attached Election Calendar, the filing period for Nomination Papers and Candidates' Statements is Monday, July 14 through Friday, August 8, 2008. If an incumbent does not file for reelection, the filing period for that office will be extended to Wednesday, August 13, 2008.

The following chart reflects an estimated cost of City Elections from previous years and County's projection on cost per registered voter.

Election Costs to the City

Year	City's Election Costs	Ballots Cast	Registered Voters	Cost per Voter
1998	\$10,837.49	9,954	18,950	\$.57
2000	16,319.72	10,449	17,032	\$.96
2002	13,461.00	8,482 Estimated	14,966	\$.90
2004	14,620.76	11,831	15,720	\$.47
2006	10,553.86	14,318	13,676	\$.77

The City Council approved a budget of \$13,000 for the 2008 Election. There are 13,640 registered voters in Lompoc as of May 17, 2008. County Staff estimates the cost range for the November 2008 election to be between \$14,000 and \$20,000.

Donna N. Terrones, CMC
City Clerk

Attachments: [Resolutions 5477\(08\), 5478\(08\), and 5479\(08\)](#)
[Election Calendar](#)
[Section 13307 Elections Code](#)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.

Laurel Barcelona
Assistant City Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

Gary P. Keefe
City Administrator