

# Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



**City Council Meeting Date:** June 7, 2016

**TO:** Patrick Wiemiller, City Manager

**FROM:** Stacey Haddon, City Clerk  
s\_haddon@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Notice of General Municipal Election on November 8, 2016; Request to Board of Supervisors to Consolidate the Election; Adoption of City Council Policy Requiring Payment for Candidate Filing Packets and Deposits for Candidate Statements

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## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council:

- 1) Adopt the following Resolutions pertaining to the November 8, 2016, election for Mayor and two Council Members:
  - a. Resolution No. 6046(16), Calling and Giving Notice of the Holding of a General Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for the election of Mayor and two Council Members (Attachment 1);
  - b. Resolution No. 6047(16), Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara to Consolidate a General Municipal Election of the City of Lompoc to be held on November 8, 2016, with services to be provided by the County of Santa Barbara (Attachment 2);
  - c. Resolution No. 6048(16), Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office, Pertaining to and Costs of the Candidates' Statements for the Consolidated General Municipal Election (Attachment 3). (Resolution No. 6048(16) will require each candidate filing a Candidate's Statement to pay a deposit and comply with the 200-word limit on Candidates' Statements of Qualifications.); and
- 2) Direct the City Clerk to file one original and seven copies of Resolution No. 6047(16) with the Clerk of the Board Supervisors, requesting consolidation with the County of Santa Barbara for the November 8, 2016, General Municipal Election, before the July 7, 2016, deadline.

## **Background:**

For many years, the City of Lompoc (City) has engaged the services of the Santa Barbara County Elections Department to conduct a consolidated election for the Mayor

and Members of the City Council. Resolution Nos. 6046(16) and 6047(16) pertain to the notice of the 2016 Election and request the County's services for conducting that election.

As noted on the Election Calendar (Attachment 4), the filing period for nomination papers and Candidate's Statements is Monday, July 18, through Friday, August 12, 2016. If an incumbent does not file for reelection, then the filing period for that office will be extended to Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

On January 5, 2016, Council approved Resolution No. 6009(16), approving an updated Master Fee Schedule for the City which included a \$25.00 filing fee, in addition to the costs for a Candidate Statement, to be collected from each candidate upon the filing of their Candidate Nomination papers.

### **Discussion:**

The terms for Mayor Lingl and Council Members Holmdahl and Mosby expire this year. The Consolidated General Municipal Election will be held in the City on November 8, 2016, for the purpose of electing a Mayor for a full term of two years; and two members of the City Council for the full terms of four years each.

### **Candidate's Statements**

Section 13307 of the Elections Code of the State of California allows the City Council to adopt regulations as stated in Resolution No. 6048(16), pertaining to handling, packaging and mailing of a Candidate Statement, including the cost thereof, prepared by any candidate, to be included in the voters' pamphlet. Each candidate who wishes to have a Candidate Statement published in the voters' pamphlet will be required to pay a deposit in advance to the City.

Since 1986, City Council has directed the City Clerk to estimate the total costs of printing, handling, and translating the Candidate's Statements, pursuant to the Elections Code, and require each candidate filing a statement to pay, in advance, his/her pro rata share as a condition of having his/her statement included in the voters' pamphlet. The City Clerk is then directed to bill each candidate a pro rata share of any costs in excess of the total deposited, or refund a pro rata share of any credit balance remaining, within 30 days following the general election.

The Elections Code provides, upon policy set by the City 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 Candidate Statements during the last five elections, and the projected costs from the County Elections Office, Staff recommends reducing the deposit from \$900.00 to \$800.00 to be received from each candidate at the time the completed nomination papers are delivered and filed with the City Clerk's Office.

**Previous Costs of Printing Candidate's Statements with a 200-Word Count**

Year	Deposit	Actual Cost for Mayor	Actual Cost for Council Member	Refunds to Candidates
2006	\$900.00	\$481.72	\$284.22	\$418.28-Mayor \$615.78-Council Member
2008	\$900.00	\$199.91	\$199.91	\$700.09-Mayor \$700.09-Council Member
2010	\$900.00	\$269.48	\$269.48	\$630.52-Mayor \$630.52-Council Member
2012	\$900.00	\$633.03	\$284.17	\$266.97-Mayor \$615.83-Council Member
2014	\$900.00	\$302.50	\$276.40	\$597.50-Mayor \$626.60-Council Member

**Fiscal Impact:**

The City Clerk's Office has budgeted appropriations of \$18,000 in Account 10310-53415 approved as part of the Biennial Budget Fiscal Years 2015-2017 for anticipated costs to be paid to the Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder for the November 8, 2016, Consolidated General Municipal Election, and does not anticipate election costs to exceed the approved budget allocation. Following is a summary of costs incurred for previous elections:

**Costs of City Elections from Previous Years**

Year	City's Election Costs	Ballots Cast	Registered Voters	Cost per Registered Voter
2006	\$10,553.86	7,151	13,676	\$0.77
2008	\$19,091.69	11,821	15,310	\$1.25
2010	\$9,852.89	8,839	14,892	\$0.66
2012	\$17,174.06	10,632	14,933	\$1.15
2014	\$11,324.00	7,623	14,506	\$0.78

**Conclusion:**

With the adoption of Resolution Nos. 6046(16), 6047(16), and 6048(16), the City will have taken the steps necessary to minimize the impact of the municipal elections by the consolidation of our elections with those of the County.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stacey Haddon, City Clerk

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Patrick Wiemiller, City Manager

- Attachments: 1) [Resolution No. 6046\(16\)](#)  
2) [Resolution No. 6047\(16\)](#)  
3) [Resolution No. 6048\(16\)](#)  
4) [Election Calendar](#)