



Interoffice Memo

DATE: January 5, 2021

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FROM: BOB PAGE
Registrar of Voters

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS
Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGE IN ELECTION DATES FOR TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT AND CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

On November 9, 2020, the governing body of Twentynine Palms Water District requested to move its election date from the mail ballot elections held in August of odd-numbered years to the statewide general elections held in November of even-numbered years commencing with the November 2022 Statewide General Election.

On December 7, 2020, the governing body of Cucamonga Valley Water District also requested to move its election date from the consolidated elections held in November of odd-numbered years to the statewide general elections held in November of even-numbered years commencing with the November 2022 Statewide General Election.

After receiving the requests, the Clerk of the Board (COB) requested that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) prepare this impact analysis. As required by California Elections Code sections 10404, this analysis examines the impacts to the ballot styles, voting equipment, and computer capacity used in the elections, as well as the cost-effectiveness of the proposed actions.

Background

As of December 6, 2020, Twentynine Palms Water District had 8,174 registered voters. The District has five elected Members of the Board of Directors. Three of these seats are up for election in August 2021, and two are up for election in August 2023. If the District's request to move its election date is approved by the Board of Supervisors, the three seats currently up for election in 2021 would be up for election in November 2022, and the two seats currently up for election in 2023 would be up for election in November 2024.

As of December 6, 2020, Cucamonga Valley Water District had 117,082 registered voters. The District has five elected Members of the Board of Directors. Three of these seats are up for election in November 2021, and two are up for election in November 2023. If the District's request to move its election date is approved by the Board of Supervisors, the three seats currently up for election in 2021 would be up for election in November 2022, and the two seats currently up for election in 2023 would be up for election in November 2024.

Voter Turnout Analysis

Elections Code sections 14050 through 14057, known as the California Voter Participation Rights Act, prohibits cities, school districts, and special districts from holding an election other than on a statewide election date in even-numbered years, if holding an election on a non-concurrent date has historically significantly decreased voter turnout. Significant decrease in voter turnout is defined as at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within the jurisdiction of the previous four statewide general elections. Local agencies must consolidate their elections with a statewide election no later than the November 8, 2022 Statewide General Election.

The voter turnout results in the most recent election for both Districts – the August 27, 2019 Mail Ballot Election for Twentynine Palms Water District and the November 5, 2019 Consolidated Election for Cucamonga Valley Water District meet the significant decrease definition.

- Twentynine Palms Water District Voter Turnout
 - August 27, 2019 Mail Ballot Election – 18.33%
 - Average Voter Turnout in prior four statewide general elections – 59.40%
 - November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election – 58.16%
 - November 8, 2016 Presidential General Election – 75.77%
 - November 4, 2014 Statewide General Election – 34.44%
 - November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election – 69.24%

- Cucamonga Valley Water District Voter Turnout
 - November 5, 2019 Consolidated Election – 11.11%
 - Average Voter Turnout in prior four statewide general elections – 60.71%
 - November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election – 58.16%
 - November 8, 2016 Presidential General Election – 75.77%
 - November 4, 2014 Statewide General Election – 34.99%
 - November 6, 2012 Presidential General Election – 73.93%

Note: The voter turnout results in the statewide general elections from 2012 to 2018 for Twentynine Palms Water District and 2016 and 2018 for Cucamonga Valley Water District are countywide voter turnout results. This is because the Districts did not hold governing body elections in those years and are not required reporting districts under State law. Therefore, the voter turnout results for the Districts are not contained in the Statement of Votes Cast Report for those elections.

Impact on the Districts

If the requests to change election dates is denied:

- ROV anticipates the Districts' future election billings will remain high, because they do not share voters with any other local jurisdiction still scheduled to hold their elections in odd-numbered years.
 - Mariana Ranchos County Water District and Baker Community Services District are scheduled to hold their next governing body election in the August 31, 2021 mail ballot election.
 - West Valley Water District is scheduled to hold its next governing body election in the November 2, 2021 Consolidated Election, but on April 6, 2017 adopted Resolution No. 2017-9, approving a plan to move its elections to November of

even-numbered years. It is expected West Valley Water District will soon request Board of Supervisors approval of its election date change.

If the requests to change election dates is approved:

- ROV anticipates the Districts will experience a significant decrease in election billings in the even-numbered years when compared to their most recent election billings in the odd-numbered years.
 - For the August 27, 2019 mail ballot election, ROV billed Twentynine Palms Water District \$78,621.77 for the actual cost of the election.
 - In comparison, ROV billed Bear Valley Community Healthcare District with 9,866 voters \$2,414 for its share of the actual cost of the November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election.
 - For the November 5, 2019 Consolidated Election, ROV billed Cucamonga Valley Water District \$387,121 for its share of the actual cost of the election.
 - In comparison, ROV billed the City of Rancho Cucamonga with 89,195 voters \$20,429 for the actual cost of its mayoral election as part of the November 6, 2018 Statewide General Election.
- The Districts will incur a one-time cost to notify all voters affected by the change in election dates.
 - Twentynine Palms Water District will incur a one-time cost of approximately \$1,100.
 - Cucamonga Valley Water District will incur a one-time cost of approximately \$15,200.
- The terms of all current Board Members will be extended by one year.

Impact on Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions Currently in Statewide General Elections held in Even-Numbered Years

If the requests to change election dates is denied:

- ROV anticipates there will be no impact to the jurisdictions' election billings in the future.

If the requests to change election dates is approved:

- ROV anticipates the jurisdictions may experience a very minor decrease in election billings in the future.

Jurisdictions Remaining in Consolidated Elections held in Odd-Numbered Years

If the requests to change election dates is denied:

- ROV anticipates there will be no impact to the remaining jurisdictions' election billings in the future.

If the requests to change election dates is approved:

- ROV anticipates the jurisdictions may experience a very minor increase in election billings in the future unless they also change their elections to the even-numbered year election cycle.

Impact on San Bernardino County

If the requests to change election dates is denied:

- There will be no impact to the County, and the ROV will continue to conduct elections according to the jurisdictions' current schedules.

If the requests to change election dates is approved:

- The County's ballot styles, voting equipment, and computer capacity can handle the changes in election dates. Though, any addition to the even-numbered year election cycle increases the possibility that there will be a three-card ballot, which will increase the County's and local jurisdictions' election costs.
- ROV anticipates that the County will likely experience a decrease in revenue for the consolidated election held in odd-numbered years.
- ROV anticipates that the County may experience a very minor increase in revenue for the Statewide General Elections held in November of even-numbered years.

ROV's Recommendation

ROV can produce a ballot which contains all of the ballot styles required if the jurisdictions listed above move to the statewide elections in even-numbered years, and the voting equipment and computer capacity can handle such a move. Therefore, ROV has no objection to the approval of the Districts' requests.