

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

June 13, 1988

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

LARRY WALKER, Supervisor
Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution establishing San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors policy for identifying local ballot measures in continuous alphabetical sequence.

BACKGROUND:

California Statutes provide that all local measures that are placed on the ballot be identified by letters and State measures be identified by numbers. In 1983, the California State Legislature passed a law that requires all State measures, but not local measures, to be numbered in a continuous sequence. Consequently, the State measures do not get confused with measures of prior elections because of the same identifying number; however, this is not true of local measures which does not allow sequential identifying letters. For example, during the 1987 General Election, Measure A related to the "Sales Tax for Transportation" purposes, and in the subsequent 1988 Primary Election, Measure A related to the "Creation of Mojave County."

The implementation of the State law requiring State measures to be numbered in a continuous sequence has alleviated the voters' confusion. This is not true of the local measures and the residents of the County of San Bernardino live through the maze of ballot measures being confused with ballot measures of other elections. The resulting confusion disrupts the free flow, accuracy, and citizens' assessment of information relating to such measures.

The administration of good public policy requires remedial steps to be taken at the local level; consequently, I am proposing the accompanying resolution which will establish a Board of Supervisors policy in this County, that commencing with the 1988 General Election, all County, city, and other local measures placed on the ballot would be identified in alphabetical sequence commencing with the letter A

cc w/Res:

- Supv. Walker
- ROV
- OMS-A. Ross
- County Counsel
- CAO
- File

SWS

Action of the Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 88-222

APPROVED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

MOTION ABSENT AYE NAYE SECOND MOTION

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MARTHA M. SCUDDER, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY *Stephanie...*

DATED: JUN 20 1988

and continuing to the letter Z after which the sequence will recommence. The only exception to the rule would be to permit but not require recommencing with letter A if the number of measures to be placed on the ballot exceeds the number of letters left in the alphabet.

JUNE 20, 1988

On motion by Supervisor Hammock, seconded by Supervisor Walker and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopts the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 88-222

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino supporting the Registrar of Voters policy for identification of local ballot measures in continuous alphabetical sequence.

WHEREAS, the California statutes require that in any election at which state, county, city or other local measures are submitted to a vote of the voter, all states measures shall be designated by numbers in numerical order; and all county, city, or other local measure shall be designated by letters in alphabetical order.

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature during the 1983 session approved and the Governor signed into law a bill requiring all State measures but not county, city or other local measures, in all elections at which said measures are submitted to a vote of the voters to be numbered in a continuous sequence, commencing with the number "1" and continuing for a period of 20 years.

WHEREAS, the implementation of this legislative directive has alleviated the voter confusion resulting from a State ballot measure with an identifying number in one election being mistaken for another State ballot measure with the same identifying number in another election.

WHEREAS, to avoid voter confusion the Registrar of Voters has generally followed a policy of identifying all local ballot measures for elections conducted by the Registrar of Voters in a continuous sequence, commencing with the letter "A" and continuing until the letter "Z" has identified a measure, except that in the case when the number of letters left in the alphabet after the last election is less than the number of measures to be placed on the ballot on the next election, the sequence may be recommenced with the letter "A" before reaching the letter "Z;" and all local advisory measures are identified, in addition, by double identifying letters instead of a single identifying letter. Thereafter, the sequence is recommenced with the letter "A" and continue to repeat the process.

WHEREAS, the confusion of a ballot measure with an identifying letter being mistaken with another ballot measure with the same identifying letter of another election can disrupt and adulterate the free flow and accuracy of information relating to such measures; and

WHEREAS, the administration of good public policy on this subject requires support of remedial steps that can be taken at the local level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino supports the policy of the Registrar of Voters that all county, city, or other local measures in all elections at which county, city, or other local measures are submitted to a vote of the voters are identified in an alphabetical sequence, commencing with

the letter "A" and continuing until the letter "Z" has identified a measure, except in the case when the number of letters left in the alphabet after the last election is less than the number of measures to be placed on the ballot on the next election, the sequence may be recommenced with the letter "A" before reaching the letter "Z;" and all local advisory measures are identified, in addition, by double identifying letters instead of a single identifying letter. Thereafter, the sequence is recommenced with the letter "A" and continue to repeat the process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino directs County staff to take all actions necessary to support implementation of the Registrar of Voters policy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: Mikels, Walker, Hammock, Riordan
NOES: None
ABSENT: Joyner

* * * * *

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO } ss.

I, MARTHA M. SCUDDER, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by said Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of June 20, 1988.
6/20/88 sws #80

MARTHA M. SCUDDER
Clerk of the Board

By

Deputy Clerk

