



CITY of CALABASAS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2016
TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
FROM: MARICELA HERNANDEZ, MMC, CITY CLERK *Moré*
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR RECORDER IN REGARD TO ELECTION ANOMALIES

MEETING
DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2016

SUMMARY:

At the request of Councilmember Bozajian, consideration of a letter to Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder, Dean C. Logan expressing the City's concerns regarding various election anomalies is being presented for Council discussion. The letter would address election related concerns for past elections as well as future, since the City's elections will now be consolidated with L.A. County effective November 2018 and beyond.

DISCUSSION:

During past elections and the most recent November 8, 2016, Special Municipal Election consolidated with Los Angeles County there have been several anomalies, which include:

1. The County Elections Department has oddly configured precinct lines, due to the unfamiliarity with City's geography. For example, residents of the Oaks were assigned to vote at the Community Center and the Mobile Home Park which did not have direct access from that community.

After bringing the matter up with the County, precincts maps were reconfigured changing the voting location for the Oaks' residents to Bay Laurel Elementary.

2. June 7, 2016 Primary Election:

- a. Poll workers scheduled to be at Civic Center precincts went to another location; hence, they started late and were unprepared. Mayor Maurer remained at the precinct until they were ready to begin accepting voters. There were lines of people waiting to vote.
- b. These same poll workers did not make available the list of write-in candidates and were incorrectly advising voters to write-in whomever they wished. Not taking into account that by writing the name of an unqualified write-in candidate would disqualify the vote. Councilmember Bozajian instructed them to look for the write-in candidate names in their tub of election materials. Fortunately, the write-in candidates' information was located at the bottom of the tub.

3. November 8, 2016 Presidential Election:

- a. The County Elections Department mailed official ballots about two weeks prior to mailing the sample ballots. This caused confusion amongst residents as they did not have any election materials to make an informed decision for voting, especially for local measures such as the City's Measure F.

The County's explanation was that there are more active voters than before and that the number of measures and contests on the ballot this year increased -- and thus production -- of the sample ballot.

- b. Certified election results provided by the County did not include second vote by mail or provisional ballots counts.

At the request of the City Clerk, the County offered to provide the information; however, it was not received in time to include with agenda report.

4. Since the incorporation of Mont Calabasas to the City, residents of that community have not been assigned a physical precinct due to the fact that the statewide redistricting commission ignored the Council's recommendation to have this community included within the 45th Assembly District (attached letter from former Mayor Bozajian dated June 20, 2011).

The County's explanation is that Mont Calabasas' number of voters at polls does not meet their requirement; hence, the community is only eligible for a vote by mail precinct.

Per Council direction, residents are invited to submit their concerns and/or attend the Council meeting to personally voice them.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and consider a letter to Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder, Dean Logan expressing the City's concerns with the various anomalies during election periods.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter to the Redistricting Commission from 2011.