



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

Item No. _____

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION OF THE ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING
AMENDING CHAPTER 2.13 (ELECTION DATES) TO TITLE 2
(ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) FOR TRANSITIONING TO A
STATEWIDE ELECTION DATE

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Read the Ordinance by title only for first reading, waive further reading, and introduce an Ordinance amending Chapter 2.13 (Election date) to Title 2 (Administration and Personnel) to change General Municipal Election to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each even-numbered years.

BACKGROUND

On September 1, 2015, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 415 (SB 415) "Voter Participation" (Attachment 1) which prohibits local governments, beginning January 1, 2018, from holding an election on any date other than on a statewide election date if doing so has resulted in voter turnout being at least 25% below the average turnout in that jurisdiction in the previous four statewide general elections. Pursuant to Elections Code (EC) Section 1001, statewide election dates are recognized to occur in March and November of each even-numbered year. SB 568 passed last month changed the primary election date from June to March.

The City of Commerce's general municipal elections are now held in June of odd-numbered years. In accordance with SB 415, the City Clerk conducted an analysis of voter turnout and determined that the City is required to conduct its general municipal elections to coincide with statewide elections. Pursuant to EC Section 10403.5(b) the City Council may increase or decrease any terms of office by not more than 12 months.

On November 7, 2017, the City Council voted to proceed with Option 2:

Beginning March 2020, synchronize with statewide election in March of each even-numbered year, **increasing** City officeholder terms of office by 9 months (for those elected in 2015).

	Beg of Term	End of Regular Term	New End of Term
Two Councilmembers	3/2015	6/2019	3/2020
Three Councilmembers	6/2017	6/2021	3/2022

Pursuant to EC Section 1301, the City Council must enact an ordinance to effectuate the change to the City's general municipal election date. However, any ordinance adopted shall only become operative upon approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Next General Municipal Election will occur on March, 2020, rather than June 2019.

Next Steps

If the City Council introduces the proposed ordinance, staff will return to City Council on December 5, 2017, for adoption of the ordinance and will submit the adopted ordinance to the Supervisors for consideration and approval.

Within 30 days after this Ordinance becomes operative (approved by Supervisors), the City Clerk's Division shall mail notice to all registered voters information the voters of the change in the election date and that, as a result of the change in the election date, the terms of office of the City officeholders extended or reduced, pursuant to Election Code Section 10403.5(e)

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impacts associated with this item are unknown at this time. The City would consolidate with the County for 2020 election since General Municipal Election will take place the same day as primary election.

RELATIONSHIP TO 2016 STRATEGIC GOALS:

This agenda report relates to the strategic goal "Community Quality of Life. "

Respectfully submitted by: Fernando Mendoza, Interim City Administrator

Recommended by: Lena Shumway, Administrative Services Director & City Clerk

Reviewed for Fiscal Impact by: Josh Brooks, Assistant Finance Director

Reviewed by: Noel Tapia, City Attorney