



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: **General Municipal Election – Approval of Resolution to Call Election on March 3, 2020**

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the following:

1. Resolution Calling and Giving Notice of the March 3, 2020 General Municipal Election;
2. Resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to approve for the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to render specified services related to the General Municipal Election to be held on March 3, 2020; and
3. Resolution adopting regulations for candidates for elective office pertaining to candidate statements submitted to the voters at an election to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

BACKGROUND

On November 15, 2016, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 684 approving the scheduling of the City's election for June 6, 2017.

In compliance with the California Elections Code, the following resolutions are required to conduct the March 3, 2020 General Municipal Election for the election of two members of the City Council for the full term of four years.

1. **Resolution Calling and Giving Notice of Election.** Calling for the Election and Filing Period: in order to hold an election for the City Councilmembers, the City is required to officially, by resolution, "call and give notice" of a General Election for March 3, 2020;
2. **Resolution requesting specified services from Los Angeles County related to conducting the General Municipal Election.** This resolution authorizes the City of Commerce to request the assistance of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to render

specified services to the City with respect to the March 3, 2020 General Municipal Election; and

3. **Resolution regarding regulations pertaining to candidate statements.** Pursuant to Election Code 13307, it is necessary to adopt regulations for the candidate statement regarding preparation and payment requirements. This includes declaring the word count for the candidate statement and assessing the cost for the translation and printing of the candidate statement to the candidate. The governing Resolution 2016-144 does not require candidates to pay for the Spanish translation services of the candidate statement. The billed amount for Spanish translation for the 2017 election was \$175 per candidate statement performed by certified translators (and paid by the City). It is the City Council's decision to determine whether the City will continue to bear the cost of translation services or pass the cost to the candidate.

The City of Commerce has approved 200 words for the candidate statement, and candidates bear the costs of printing their official statements and prepay an estimate of the costs (about \$500, not including Spanish translation cost) at the time of filing their election papers. The City Council may authorize an increase in the limitations on words from 200 to 400 words and accordingly increasing the price for the candidate. Staff recommends the City Council keeping candidate statements to 200 words, which is a fairly common practice.

There was a recent change in the law that allows candidates to prepare a candidate statement to be posted only on the City's website. There is a cost for the formatting involved, but the cost is less expensive than printing the candidate statement in voter materials and the costs to mail the statements.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff's recommendation; or
2. Provide alternative direction.

RELATIONSHIP TO 2016 STRATEGIC GOALS:

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

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost for the March 3, 2020 General Election is estimated to be \$50,000 and was included in the City's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget. If the City adopts the proposed resolution, there is no additional fiscal impact to the City since candidates pay for their respective Candidate Statements.

Respectfully submitted by: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

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

Reviewed for Fiscal Impact by: Vilko Domic, Assistant City Manager

Reviewed by: Norma Copado, Assistant City Attorney