



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL **Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** **UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020  
GENERAL ELECTION AND JUNE 2, 2020, SPECIAL ELECTION**

**MEETING DATE:** May 5, 2020

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Council will receive and file an update regarding a new voting model implementation for the June 2, 2020 Special Election and November 3, 2020 General Election.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many sectors of life to be upended. Much of what is being experienced is unprecedented and the 'new normal' of the future is unknown. Voting is a right that should not come at the cost of being exposed to this virus.

Based on the California Elections Code (EC 4007), which requires Los Angeles County to move to a voting model where every eligible voter is mailed a ballot prior to each election no later than 2024, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved to begin the process of universal vote-by-mail (VBM) this year starting with the November 3, 2020 election, to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Universal VBM is essentially the mailing of VBM ballots to ALL voters regardless of permanent VBM status where voters can opt to vote the VBM ballot or disregard it and vote at an in-person location instead.

In accordance with the provisions of Division 4 of the Elections Code, and per the County Board of Supervisors, the voting experience is being enhanced as much as possible by providing multiple voting options, so a lower amount of voting centers are being established. It is understood that in-person voting is a historically important option in LA County which should remain available, particularly for voters who have language, disability, or other specific needs.

The City of Commerce has a scheduled June 2, 2020 Special Election relating to two (2) ballot measures, which will be conducted as a universal VBM election. This action continues to be in accord with subsequently issued Executive Orders by the Governor of California, including Executive Order N-48-20, who mandated all other elections in April, May and June, including the City of Commerce's Special Election of June 2, 2020, to be

conducted by mailing ballots to all eligible voters and providing in-person voting options at a vote center. Vote by mail (VBM) will be mailed to all registered voters starting May 4, 2020. All registered Commerce voters will receive a Vote-By-Mail (VBM) ballot sometime beginning of May and are highly encouraged to utilize the Vote-By-Mail ballots option to cast their votes, especially with the current social distancing and other safety measures recommended by the County and the State.

Ballots must be either mailed or dropped off at a certified VBM drop off center. No postage is required to mail in a ballot. **All voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail.**

If voters wish, there is also a Vote-By-Mail drop box located at the entrance to City Hall.



If voters wish to go through the traditional voting center experience, there will be a mobile voting center at the Commerce City Hall parking lot that will serve as the City’s only voting center for the June 2, 2020 Special Election. The mobile voting center will be open for early voting from May 23 to June 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The mobile voting center will be open for Election Day voting on June 2, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For those that prefer voting in person, early voting is highly recommended to avoid lines on Election Day.

Commerce’s mobile voting center will be set up in a manner consistent with public health orders to restrict public gatherings by requiring physical distancing and personal protective equipment for voters and election workers.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact for the City.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:**

This agenda item relates to the 2012 strategic planning goal: "*Protect and Enhance the Quality of Life in the City of Commerce,*"

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