



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 4, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** City Clerk's Office, Administrative Services Department

**SUBJECT:** Adoption Of Resolutions Relating To The General Municipal Election Of November 5, 2013

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Calling for the Holding of a Vote-By-Mail General Municipal Election to be Held in the City on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, for the Election of Certain Officers as Required by the Provisions of the Charter and for the Submission To The Votersa Proposition Measure for the Enactment of a City Ordinance Authorizing the Exchange of Certain City Real Property Near the Fremont Army Reserve Center and the City's MacKenzie Park to the United States Government Pursuant to the Requirements of City Charter Section 520;
- B. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Conduct of a Vote-By-Mail Election for the November 5, 2013, General Municipal Election;
- C. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Directing the City Attorney to Prepare Impartial Analyses of the City's Ballot Measure to Be Placed on the Ballot for the November 5, 2013, General Municipal Election; and
- D. Determine whether the City Council or any individual member(s) of City Council will file an argument regarding the proposed Measure, and if so, adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Setting Priorities for Filing a Written Argument Regarding a City Measure to Be Placed on the Ballot for the November 5, 2013, General Municipal Election.

### DISCUSSION:

As required by the City Charter and the California Elections Code, the City Council is requested to adopt the appropriate resolutions as follows:

- Calling for the election;
- Authorizing the conduct of a vote-by-mail election;

- Directing the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis of the ballot measure; and
- Setting priorities for filing a written argument regarding the ballot measure.

The purpose of the election is to fill the Mayor and three Councilmember seats and to decide one ballot measure. The candidate filing period will be July 15 through August 9, 2013. The terms of Mayor Schneider and Councilmembers Frank Hotchkiss, Grant House and Bendy White will be expiring in January 2014, and these offices will be filled at the November 2013 election.

On April 23, 2013, Council authorized staff to conduct a Vote-By-Mail election with drop-off centers throughout the City, allowing voters the option to vote in person. Following the Council discussion at the meeting of April 23, the City Clerk's Office has reserved Calvary Baptist Church on Islay Street, as well Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin Neighborhood Center and City Hall as drop-off centers. The three locations other than City Hall are utilized by Santa Barbara County for their statewide general and primary elections, therefore residents are accustomed to voting at those locations. The remaining polling locations that the County utilizes will be provided with signage, directing voters to the four designated drop-off centers, and providing the direct phone number to the City Clerk's Office.

Voters will have the opportunity to vote by mail beginning October 7 and continuing through Election Day, November 5, 2013. During this time, voters may also vote in person at City Hall, during regular business hours, and on Saturday, November 2, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All four drop-off centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The California Elections Code allows each candidate for a nonpartisan elective office in a city to prepare a statement which will be mailed to each registered voter as part of a voter information pamphlet. Per Resolution No. 09-055, candidates will be permitted to submit candidate's statements containing up to 200 words; and there will be no charge to the candidate for the printing of the statement.

### **Schedule for the Ballot Measure**

At the Council meeting of May 14, 2013, Council authorized the placement of a ballot measure on the November 5, 2013 ballot to obtain City voter approval for a City ordinance to allow the transfer of 14,564 square feet of MacKenzie Park Property to the U.S. Government in return for a transfer to the City of 12,511 square feet of the adjacent U.S. Army Reserve Center property (along State Street) by the U.S. Government.

The schedule and deadlines in this section relate specifically to the City Attorney's impartial analyses, arguments for and against the ballot measure, rebuttal arguments by authors of direct arguments, and the public examination period for the charter amendments.

### **City Attorney's Impartial Analyses**

In accordance with the state Elections Code, it is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution requesting the City Attorney to prepare impartial analyses of the proposed ballot measure. The first day the City Clerk's Office will receive the City Attorney's impartial analyses is June 7, 2013 and the last day is June 20, 2013.

### **Written Ballot Arguments For or Against the MacKenzie Park Ballot Measure**

The City Council, or any member or members of the Council, or any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measures, or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument for or against any city measure. The first day the City Clerk's Office will receive typewritten arguments in favor of or against the measure is June 5, 2013, and the last day will be June 18, 2013.

The Elections Code provides that upon authorization by the City Council, an argument prepared and signed by the City Council or by one or more Councilmembers shall be given first priority for placement in the sample ballot election brochure by the City Elections Official.

### **Rebuttal Arguments by Authors of Direct Arguments to Measure**

The first day the City Clerk's Office will receive typewritten rebuttal arguments by the authors of direct arguments for and against the measures is June 19, 2013, and the last day will be July 1, 2013.

### **Public Examination Period for Ballot Measure**

The public examination period of the ballot measure, City Attorney's impartial analyses, ballot measure arguments and rebuttal arguments filed with the City Clerk's Office is 10 days, commencing July 2, 2013, and concluding July 12, 2013.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The Fiscal Year 2014 proposed budget for the City Clerk's Office includes \$300,000 to cover the estimated cost of the election.

**PREPARED BY:** Gwen Peirce, CMC, City Clerk Services Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Marcelo A. López, Assistant City Administrator

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office