

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
June 9, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Voter Registration and Elections

Subject: Report Back – Legislation For All-Mail Ballot Elections; Federal Stimulus Funds; Opportunities For Service Consolidation

Supervisory District: All

Contact: Jill LaVine, Registrar of Voters, 875-6558

BACKGROUND:

During the budget workshops in May, the Board asked about the possibility of pursuing legislation to create all-mail-in balloting and whether the department will receive Federal stimulus funds or can consolidate services with the cities.

DISCUSSION

Vote-By-Mail Legislation

On March 24, 2009, I made a presentation to the Board outlining the benefits and cost savings of conducting elections by mail. The Board supported the option for counties to conduct all-mail ballot elections. At that time, I drafted legislation modeled after the 2005 Washington State legislation which would allow each county's governing board to decide whether to conduct all elections by mail (not just special elections). In Washington State this legislation was so well received that 38 of their 39 counties have now opted to conduct all their elections by mail.

Also discussed at this meeting was AB 1228 (Yamada), a bill to allow Yolo County to conduct local elections entirely by mail as a pilot county. The Board directed a support position if the bill was amended to include Sacramento County as a pilot county. I contacted the Yolo County election office and expressed our desire to join. Leslie McFadden, Sacramento County Legislative Advocate, contacted the author's office and also discussed adding Sacramento County to the bill. The intent of the author was to keep this pilot project small and so we were not able to be added.

While our statewide election organization, California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), has made proposals in the past five years for all-mail ballot legislation on a limited basis such as for special vacancy elections, only local elections, or to allow a county to be a pilot, none of these proposals were successful as a bill and often met with defeat along party lines.

The deadline to introduce new legislation this year has passed. I will continue to work with Leslie McFadden and CACEO, to find an author for this bill next year.

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Federal Stimulus Funds

All departments were requested to report back on federal stimulus funds. Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has no federal stimulus funds available.

Opportunities for Service Consolidation

Departments were asked to report back on what opportunities exist to consolidate services with the cities. VRE conducts all elections for the cities, which reimburse the county for their costs.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

JILL LAVINE, Registrar of Voters
Voter Registration and Elections

By: _____
JAMES W. HUNT, Acting Administrator
Countywide Services Agency

cc: Leslie McFadden, Legislative Advocate