



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/21/2017

Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Tuteur - Registrar of Voters
Elections

REPORT BY: John Tuteur, Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk - 253-4459

SUBJECT: Registrar of Voters to discuss preparations for all vote by mail and conditional voter registration for June 5, 2018 Primary Election

RECOMMENDATION

Registrar of Voters requests discussion and possible direction on implementation of all vote by mail and conditional voter registration under Senate Bill 450 for June 5, 2018 Primary Election.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County is one of 14 pilot counties implementing all vote by mail and conditional voter registration for the June 5, 2018 Primary Election pursuant to 2016 legislation (SB 450) that will require all counties other than Los Angeles County to be all vote by mail by June 2020. Napa County was selected because over 90% of Napa County voters already vote by mail and the Election Division has had experience with vote by mail assistance centers since 2008. Vote centers will replace polling places for this election and voters will be able to register to vote and cast a conditional ballot at these vote centers up to and including election day. Two vote centers will open on Saturday May 26, 2018, one at our central office and the other at South Campus. Six additional vote centers will open on Saturday June 2, 2018 one in Angwin and the others in each of the municipalities. In addition to vote centers there will be 7 secure ballot drop boxes for 28 days prior to the election located throughout the county.

Election Division staff will present the outlines of the program and be available to answer questions and receive feedback from the Board and the public.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

No Action Required

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	General fund revenues for June 5, 2018 with some offsetting revenues from other agencies for November 6, 2018. Potential state revenues for implementation. Potential cost savings in postage and printing to reflect existence of drop box alternative for return ballot delivery and mobile ballot printing at vote centers to reduce need for paper ballots.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	Increased election extra help staffing costs of approximately \$60,000 for each statewide election. Minor adjustment to ongoing ITS charges for support of one-time equipment purchases. Municipalities, school districts and others for whom the Election Division conducts elections will provide proportionate reimbursement to offset these costs.
Consequences if not approved:	SB 450 is mandatory beginning June 2020. By serving as a pilot county, Napa County voters will have access to improved ballot delivery methods and conditional voter registration which became effective January 1, 2017.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Following the passage of SB 450 in 2016 California will be joining Colorado, Oregon and Washington as all vote by mail states by June 2020. The primary impetus for this change is to provide voters with easier options for casting their ballot which in turn leads to higher voter turnout.

Napa County is one of 14 pilot counties implementing all vote by mail and conditional voter registration for the June 5, 2018 Primary Election. In the November 8, 2016 election more than 60% of Californians voted by mail with more than 90% of Napa County voters voting by mail. In that election Napa County was ranked 6th in turnout among California counties with more than 25,000 registered voters. Napa County was selected as a pilot county because we are heavily vote by mail and have had experience with vote by mail assistance centers since 2008. Being a pilot county will give Napa County voters the opportunity to experience the innovative voting and registration process earlier than the rest of the state.

Vote centers will replace polling places for the June 5, 2018 election. At vote centers voters will be able to register to vote and cast a conditional ballot at these vote centers up to and including election day. Two vote centers will open on Saturday May 26, 2018, one at our central office and the other at South Campus. 6 additional vote centers will open on Saturday June 2, 2018 one in Angwin and the others in each of the municipalities.

The change to vote centers and the advent of conditional voter registration will require exchanging some of our current voting equipment and increased training for vote center staff. Budgetary impacts will be included in the 2017-2018 budget for approximately \$40,000 in additional staffing costs and approximately \$100,000 for one time purchase of equipment including 7 drop boxes to be available for 28 days prior to the election. Napa County is working with the Secretary of State and the Legislative Analyst Office in Sacramento on possible one-time state assistance to offset the latter cost. There will also be some cost savings on postage because the County will no longer pay return postage due to the availability of the new drop box alternative.

Election Division staff will present the outlines of the program and be available to answer questions and receive feedback from the Board and the public.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi