
CITY COUNCIL REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

TO: Lisa Takata
Deputy City Manager

PACKET DATE: June 26, 2014

FROM: Cris Meyer
City Clerk

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SUBJECT: INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOVEMBER SPECIAL ELECTION

The purpose of this report is to provide the City Council with information and important dates related to the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

BACKGROUND

Initiative Petition I-1-14, proposing amendments to the City Charter relating to the city pension system, was certified sufficient on April 25, 2014. As required by the City Charter, on May 7, 2014, the City Council adopted an ordinance referring the measure to voters and calling a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, the date of the State General Election. On June 18, 2014 the Council approved an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Maricopa County to conduct the election and place the city ballot measure on the General Election ballot.

OTHER INFORMATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Because Maricopa County will conduct the election according to state law, there are certain aspects of the election that will be different from elections conducted by the city. Although the county will be administering the election, the city is still required to handle some aspects of the election process, such as preparing the publicity pamphlet. The following provides information and important dates about the election, and identifies whether the city or county will be responsible for that part of the election process.

Voter Registration (County) – The last day a resident may register to vote in this election is Monday, October 6, which is 29 days prior to the election.

Voting Precincts (County) – The voting precincts for the election will be established by Maricopa County. There are currently 265 individual Maricopa County voting precincts either wholly or partially within the City of Phoenix. About 23 precincts are split by city limit boundaries, and about 30 precincts split by council district boundaries.

Voting at the Polls (County) – The county will not use voting centers for this election. Instead, traditional polling places will be used, with one polling place designated for each county voting precinct. Voters must vote only at the one specific polling location designated for the precinct where they reside. These polling places will be open only on Election Day (Tuesday, November 4) from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Maricopa County will also appoint all of the election board workers necessary to conduct the election.

Voters will be able to obtain information about their polling place in several ways. The name and address of the polling place for each voter household will be identified on the Sample Ballot (provided by Maricopa County) and the Publicity Pamphlet (provided by the City) that will be mailed to each voter household prior to the election. Voters will also be able to search for their polling place location on the Maricopa County Elections web page at recorder.maricopa.gov/web/elections.aspx beginning about 60 days prior to the election.

Ballots (County) – The deadline to submit final ballot language to Maricopa County for measures to be included on the General Election ballot is Tuesday, July 15, 2014. All Official Ballots, Official Early Ballots, and Sample Ballots will be provided by Maricopa County. The County will tabulate the ballots and provide results to the city for each county voting precinct.

Accessible Voting (County) – Accessible voting devices will be available at all polling places to provide voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote independently.

Early Voting by Mail (County) – Approximately 435,000 city voters on the permanent early voting list will automatically receive an early ballot by mail unless they submitted a request to not receive a ballot by mail. Voters who are not on the permanent early voting list can also vote by mail by requesting an early ballot from Maricopa County no later than Friday, October 24. Voters can request early ballots by calling Maricopa County Elections at 602-506-1511, or online on the county elections web page.

Voters will receive early ballots beginning Thursday, October 9. Voted early ballots may be returned by mail, or may be delivered to any of the Maricopa County Elections offices or the City Clerk Department, to any early voting site, or to any polling place on Election Day. To be counted, voted early ballots must be received by election officials no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Early Voting in Person (County/City) - In-person early voting will also be available weekdays from Thursday, October 9 through Friday, October 31 during normal business hours at the Maricopa County Elections offices and on the 15th Floor of Phoenix City Hall. The early voting schedule will be available in the Publicity Pamphlet, on the city and county Elections web pages, and will be published in several newspapers.

Ballot Measure Arguments (City) – Wednesday, August 6 is the latest date for a person or organization to submit an argument supporting or opposing a ballot measure to have it appear in the Publicity Pamphlet. Arguments are limited to 300 words and a deposit of \$250 must be paid for each argument.

Publicity Pamphlet (City) – The City is required to prepare and distribute a Publicity Pamphlet. Voters who requested to obtain the publicity pamphlet electronically, which reduces printing and mailing costs, will receive an e-mail notice when the pamphlet is available online at phoenix.gov/elections. Voters can add their name to this list by visiting the city’s elections web page or by calling the City Clerk Department at 602-261-8683. A pamphlet will be mailed to each residence in the City that has a registered voter who is not receiving the pamphlet electronically. The publicity pamphlet will be distributed the week of September 29, before early ballots are mailed by Maricopa County.

Voter Outreach (City) – Staff will be working with the Public Information Office to promote awareness of the election, to remind voters that polling places are being used for this Election instead of voting centers, and to encourage voter participation. Election information will also be posted on phoenix.gov.

Campaign Finance Reporting (City) – The calling of a Special Election for November 4, 2014, has changed the campaign finance reporting requirements for 2014. Instead of the non-election year schedule, the election year schedule applies. Committees will be required to file a June Report no later than June 30, as well as pre-election and post-election reports for the August and November Elections. Information regarding the reporting and filing periods for these reports has been provided to the committees and is available on the City election web pages.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only. No Council action is required on this report.