



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 12, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Martin Polt, Deputy County Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of a Letter requesting reimbursement from the State for costs to administer the 2019 Special Election for State Senate District 1.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Urgency Requesting Reimbursement for Costs to Administer the 2019 Special Election for State Senate District 1.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

On January 16, 2019, Governor Newsom proclaimed and ordered that a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy of the office of State Senator from that district resulting from the resignation of Senator Ted Gaines. This election will not be an all-mail election and thus Nevada County is required to open three Vote Centers to conduct the election. A Primary Special Election has been scheduled for March 26, 2019. Elections Department Staff project the cost to administer this election will be approximately \$300,000.

This represents an 18% increase over the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Adopted Budget for the Registrar of Voters/Elections department without any revenue to offset these costs. Additionally, if the Primary Election does not conclude with a 50% + 1 result, a General Election will be required in June. Costs to administer a General Election are expected to be another \$300,000.

In summary, the impact to Nevada County to administer this Special Election could cost between \$300,000 to \$600,000. The table below outlines the cost estimates from the Elections department.

Special Election Projected Costs	
Category	Projected Cost
IS Support	19,050
Legal Notices/Advertising	3,280
Materials	24,807
Miscellaneous	15,116
Office Supplies	3,511
Postage	70,717
Printing	81,297
Staffing	89,400
Total Costs Per Election	307,178

Without reimbursement from the State, it is unlikely that the Elections department will be able to find savings or additional revenues sufficient to mitigate this impact and as such, use of General Fund reserves would be required.

Given this potentially significant impact to County General Fund reserves, we respectfully request the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Chair to sign and submit the attached Letter of Urgency to encourage the State to consider providing reimbursement to the County for the costs required by the Governor’s proclamation. Concurrent with this request, Gregory Diaz, Registrar of Voters, is working with the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials and County Executive Office staff have engaged the services of our legislative advocate to advance this effort in.

Thank you for your consideration.

Item Initiated by and Approved by: Martin Polt, Deputy County Executive Officer

Submittal Date: December 24, 2018