

The County Of Nevada



CLERK RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

GREGORY J. DIAZ

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

SUBJECT: Resolution Amending the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Budget for implementation of the Voter's Choice Act for the 2017/18 Fiscal Year (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution amending the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Budget for the 2017/18 Fiscal Year.

FUNDING: This Resolution will impact the Election Budget in the amount of \$258,151 (\$273,151 of expenditures offset by an additional \$15,000 of revenue) for fiscal year 2017/18, and will be funded through general fund dollars. A budget amendment is included for consideration.

BACKGROUND: On January 23rd, 2018 the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters Gregory Diaz brought to the Board of Supervisors a resolution requesting a budget amendment related to the Voters Choice Act. At that meeting, the Board of Supervisors declined to approve the proposed resolution. The Board directed that the proposed budget amendment be presented to the item to the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee for review and returned to the full Board with a revisions at a future meeting. The Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee met on January 30, 2018 along with Mr. Diaz and Election staff. The meeting was productive and resulted in a proposal for recommendation to be brought to the Board of Supervisors at this February 13, 2018 meeting.

The recommendation is to request approval for a revised Voters Choice Act (VCA) budget expenditure increase of \$273,151 versus the \$303,141 previously requested (an expenditure reduction of -\$29,990), with an additional offset of \$15,000 in reimbursement revenue from the California Secretary of State for Education and Outreach for the Voters Choice Act (VCA). The total reduced budget impact compared to the original proposal is -\$44,990 (see attached expenditure summary). The revised proposal reduces expected ongoing costs of future elections from approximately \$139,000 to \$109,009. The new budget includes revised estimated costs for temporary salaries and postage. Return postage will still be paid for ballots which are actually returned by mail, but we've fine-tuned the estimate of how many ballots will be mailed in, resulting in reduced-cost estimates. In addition, we have identified further efficiencies in our staffing assignments and have reduced the required number of temporary staff.

In addition to the above, it is expected that under the VCA model, the County will reduce ongoing costs for implementing the mandated statewide Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) (same-day day voter registration), and the “Motor Voter Act”, Implementation of these new laws is required statewide starting with the June 2018 election. The VCA will allow voters to register the same day and receive the correct ballot at any vote center. If the precinct model were in place, CVR voters would be required to register at the Rood Center to receive their proper ballot. Under the precinct model, implementation of CVR ballots would result in a high volume of provisional ballots. Whereas, the Voter’s Choice Act vote center model will eliminate provisional voters because vote centers will be set up to handle (CVR) voters. Vote Centers will increase staff’s ability to process these votes more quickly on the day of the election. Under the current precinct model, these provisional ballots are returned to the Rood Center at the end of Election Day and processed later by staff, which increases staff costs and delays staff’s ability to finalize election results.

The exact amount of the fiscal impact for fiscal year 17/18 is unknown at this time. This budget amendment is a projection and every effort will be made to meet budget targets. If there are any unforeseen costs, Election staff will notify our CEO Budget Analyst, work on possible solutions, and return to the Board of Supervisors after the June Election for an additional budget amendment if needed.

Item Initiated by: Sandra J. Sjoberg

Approved by: Gregory J. Diaz

Submittal Date: February 1, 2018

Revision Date: