



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 8d

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2019

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**Date: April 15, 2019**

**From: Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, City Clerk – (650) 558-7203**

**Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Ordering and Calling a General Municipal Election to be Held on November 5, 2019**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution ordering and calling a general municipal election to be held on November 5, 2019.

## **BACKGROUND**

On September 1, 2015, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 415, the "California Voter Participation Rights Act." SB 415 requires local governments, like the City of Burlingame, to move their elections to even-numbered years if there was a significant decrease in voter turnout during odd-year elections.

On February 21, 2017, the Burlingame City Council adopted Ordinance 1940 changing future City Council elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years. To make this transition, the City held its regular election in November 2017, electing Councilmembers to serve five-year terms. To complete the transition to even-numbered year elections, the City will hold its November 2019 election and elect two Councilmembers to serve five-year terms. After November 2019, the City's next election for Council will be November 2022; the election after that will be November 2024. These and all subsequent elections will be for four-year terms.

## **DISCUSSION**

Two Council terms will expire this year. In accordance with Ordinance 1940, the City will hold elections for the two seats on November 5, 2019, each for a five-year term. The filing period for nomination papers and candidate statements is from July 15, 2019, to August 9, 2019.

On September 12, 2017, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors authorized the County's Elections Office to implement SB 450, "California Voter's Choice Act," which allows counties to conduct elections as all-mailed ballot with voting centers. The goal of this legislation is to expand accessibility and voting opportunities for all voters, particularly those with disabilities, visual impairments, and language minorities. Accordingly, the November 5, 2019 election will be held as an all-mailed ballot election.

Under the all-mailed ballot election model, all voters will receive their ballot by mail. Additionally during the 29-day period before Election Day, voters will be able to vote in person at designated locations. And beginning at least three days prior to Election Day, a voting center will be open in the city for all voters.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The November 7, 2017 election cost the City \$108,463. Staff is budgeting \$150,000 for the November 5, 2019 election.

Exhibit:

- Resolution to Call the Election