



AGENDA NO: 7.c

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024

# Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**DATE:** June 17, 2024

**FROM:** Dana Swanson, City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** General Municipal Election Resolutions for November 5, 2024 Election

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Adopt Resolution No. 35-24 calling a general municipal election for November 5, 2024, and requesting consolidation of the election with the County, and Resolution No. 36-24 adopting regulations for candidate statements; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. 37-24 allowing for the filing of rebuttal arguments to the primary written arguments in support of and opposing Measure A-24.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated cost for calling and holding a general municipal election on November 5, 2024 for the election of the mayor and two council members is approximately \$30,000 and the estimated cost for submitting proposed Measure A-24 to the qualified voters is \$5,000. This sum has been provided for in the City Clerk's Proposed FY 2024/25 Budget.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

In order to initiate the election process for a general municipal election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, two resolutions are presented for consideration by the Mayor and City Council. These two resolutions are pursuant to the provisions of law relating to elections in General Law Cities, in the State of California.

### Resolution Calling for a General Municipal Election for November 5, 2024:

The first resolution calls and gives notice of the General Municipal Election to be held on November 5, 2024, for the election of the position of Mayor for a full term of two years, and two members of the City Council for full terms of four years each, and further requests that the County Board of Supervisors consolidate the General Municipal Election with the statewide general election to be held on the same date. Services provided by the County in a consolidated election include ballot creation, printing, mailing, collection, and counting, voter registration, and voting site operation. The City's request for consolidation commits to reimbursing the County for its costs associated with consolidation.

The formal nomination period for candidates will run from July 15 through August 9, 2024, and the filing deadline will be extended to August 14, 2024, if an incumbent does not file. Information regarding the 2024 Election will be available on the City website.

Prepared by: DS

Dept Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager Review: CM

City Attorney Review: LNL

Resolution Adopting Regulations for Candidate Statements:

The second resolution adopts regulations pertaining to candidate's statements to be submitted to the electorate prepared by any candidate for a municipal election, including the costs of such materials, foreign language translations as required by state law, and provision that the candidate's statements may be 200 words (the City Council may authorize 200 words or 400 words, pursuant to Election Code § 13307(a)(1)).

Resolution allowing for Rebuttal Arguments to the Primary Arguments filed in Support of and Opposing Measure A-24:

In September 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 61-23 calling for a General Municipal Election for the submission of Measure A-24 (proposed Ordinance 659) to the qualified voters of the City, and Resolution No. 62-23 setting priorities for filing primary arguments for and against the proposed measure and directing the City Attorney to prepare an Impartial Analysis. The proponents of the measure would be expected to file an argument in favor of the proposed measure and, pursuant to Election Code section 9282, the Council had the option but declined to appoint one or two Council members to write an argument against the ballot measure. Perhaps based on that decision, the Council declined at that time to adopt a resolution allowing for the filing of rebuttal arguments to the primary written arguments.

The previously formed General Purpose Committee, Citizens for Estero Bay Preservation, has been redesignated as a Primarily Formed Committee in support of Measure A-24 and is expected to file a written argument in favor of Measure A-24 that will be printed in the voters' information guide. A Committee Against Morro Bay Initiative Measure A-24 has also been established and is expected to file a written argument against Measure A-24. In order to provide registered voters a more thorough understanding of both perspectives, it is recommended the City Council adopt Resolution No. 37-24 allowing for rebuttal arguments to be filed. If adopted, the proponents and opponents of Measure A-24 would have 10 calendar days to review the primary arguments and file rebuttals to those arguments with the City Clerk's office for publishing in the voters' information guide.

**CONCLUSION**

Staff recommends Council approve the two election Resolutions Nos. 35-24 and 36-24 for the holding of a general municipal election on November 5, 2024, and adopt Resolution No. 37-24 allowing for the filing of rebuttal arguments to the primary written arguments in support of and opposing Measure A-24.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Resolution No. 35-24 calling for a General Municipal Election for Nov 5, 2024
2. Proposed Resolution No. 36-24 adopting Regulations for Candidate Statements
3. Proposed Resolution No. 37-24 allowing for Rebuttal Arguments for/against Measure A-24
4. Link to adopted Resolutions No. [61-23](#) and [62-23](#).