

Proposed 2010 Council Study Issue

OCM 10-02 Consider Moving From Odd-Year Elections to Even-Year Elections

Lead Department Office of the City Manager
Element or Sub-element 7.3 Legislative Management
New or Previous New
Status Pending **History** 1 year ago None 2 years ago None

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?

This study would consider the pros and cons of moving the City of Sunnyvale's general elections from odd-numbered years (as currently required by the Charter) to even-numbered years. Fiscal impacts to the City as well as to other jurisdictions (local school districts and/or cities) would be analyzed, as would the potential impacts to voter turn-out.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**City Charter Section 1400. General Municipal Elections.**

There shall be a General Municipal Election to fill elective offices in the odd-numbered years on the date established under General Law for the election of governing board members of elementary school districts. (Amended effective December 31, 1975)

Council Policy B.5 Conduct elections in accordance with the Charter and state laws.

Action Statements

B.5a Consolidate elections whenever possible.

B.5b Provide voters with information about election procedures and candidates.

B.5c Provide Council candidates with information to inform them of current City issues.

B.5d Explore ways to increase voter turnout in local elections, such as mail ballots.

3. Origin of issue

Council Member(s) Councilmember Swegles; Mayor Spitaleri

General Plan

City Staff

Public

Board or Commission none

4. Multiple Year Project? No Planned Completion Year 2010

5. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No
 Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? No
 If so, which?
 Is a Council Study Session anticipated? Yes
 What is the public participation process?
 Council Study Session and Council Public hearing

6. Cost of Study

Operating Budget Program covering costs
 Project Budget covering costs
 Budget modification \$ amount needed for study
 Explain below what the additional funding will be used for

7. Potential fiscal impact to implement recommendations in the Study approved by Council

Capital expenditure range None
 Operating expenditure range \$500 - \$50K
 New revenues/savings range \$101K - \$500K

Explain impact briefly

Depending on a number of variables, moving from odd-numbered to even-numbered year elections could save the City up to several hundred thousand dollars in operating costs every other year (see below). Elections held in the even-numbered years share costs with the county, ten cities and numerous school and special districts during statewide gubernatorial and presidential elections. Elections held in odd-numbered years share costs with only four other cities and several school and special districts.

8. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation For Study

If 'For Study' or 'Against Study', explain

This issue has arisen in the past, but the numbers associated with determining the cost-benefit of a transition from odd to even-numbered year elections continues to change given variables outside the control of the City (the number of other cities which have moved to even-year elections; charges from the Registrar of Voters, etc.)

9. Estimated consultant hours for completion of the study issue

Managers	Role	Manager	Hours
	Lead	Franco Simmons, Kathleen	Mgr CY1: 160 Mgr CY2: 0

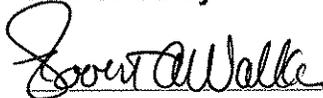
	Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0
Interdep Kahn, David	Mgr CY1:	40	Mgr CY2:	0
	Staff CY1:	0	Staff CY2:	0

Total Hours CY1: 200

Total Hours CY2: 0

Note: If staff's recommendation is 'For Study' or 'Against Study', the Director should note the relative importance of this Study to other major projects that the Department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.

Reviewed by



Department Director

2-1-09

Date

Approved by



City Manager

2-2-09

Date

Addendum

A. Board / Commission Recommendation

Issue Created Too Late for B/C Ranking

Board or Commission	Rank Rank 1 year ago	Rank Rank 2 years ago
Arts Commission		
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee		
Board of Building Code Appeals		
Board of Library Trustees		
Child Care Advisory Board		
Heritage Preservation Commission		
Housing and Human Services Commission		
Parks and Recreation Commission		
Personnel Board		
Planning Commission		

Board or Commission ranking comments

B. Council

Council Rank (no rank yet)
Start Date (blank)
Work Plan Review Date (blank)
Study Session Date (blank)
RTC Date (blank)
Actual Complete Date (blank)
Staff Contact