

# Agenda Report



**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** CITY CLERK ORTIZ

**SUBJECT: CALLING AND ORDERING MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

The City will be holding its General Municipal Election on November 5, 2024, to fill three City Council vacancies, in Districts 1, 2, and 6. In order to consolidate with the County of Santa Cruz to hold said Election, the City Council must approve a series of resolutions.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the following resolutions:

1. Resolution Calling a General Municipal Election in the City of Watsonville for the election of one Council Member from each of District Numbers 1, 2, and 6 and Directing the Publication of Notice of a General Municipal Election in the City of Watsonville on November 5, 2024
2. Resolution Ordering an Election; Requesting the County of Santa Cruz to Conduct the Election, & Requesting the Consolidation of the General Statewide & Municipal Election in the City of Watsonville on November 5, 2024
3. Resolution Adopting Policies in regard to the Candidate's Statements for the General Municipal Election to be Held on November 5, 2024

## **DISCUSSION:**

Section 1300 of the Charter of the City of Watsonville specifies that "A General Municipal Election shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each even numbered year." In addition, Section 403 of the Charter of the City of Watsonville provides that a person shall be eligible to be nominated for City Council, only if thirty (30) days preceding the opening date for the filing of nomination papers is a resident and a registered qualified voter of this City and the District which the person seeks to represent. Pursuant to Elections Code 10220, candidates for elective City office may be nominated during a nomination period specified by State law, which this year is July 15 through August 9, 2024.

California Elections Code section 10403 requires that the City Council adopt a resolution calling for a general municipal election to fill elective seats. In addition, State law requires

that the Council adopt a resolution requesting the services of the County of Santa Cruz to conduct the election and consolidate it with the statewide General Election.

Section 13307 of the Elections Code provides certain guidelines for Candidate's Statements for persons who run for elected office, including limiting candidate statements to 200 words.

The County Clerk and City of Watsonville staff will work collaboratively to provide necessary notice of the election, and to inform the public of the different options available for them to exercise their right to vote.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The Election will allow voters to select their Council representative and vote on local measures, supporting Strategic Priority 6-Community Engagement & Well-Being and ensuring Priority 7 - Efficient and High Performing Government.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The County of Santa Cruz Elections Department estimates the cost between \$2.50 to \$4.50 per voter. The City of Watsonville currently has approximately 23,000 registered voters. Therefore, the cost could range from \$57,500 to \$103,500.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

None.