

IMPACT ANALYSIS/COST EFFECTIVENESS REPORT  
On Changing the Election of Officials for the City of Gilroy from Odd-Year  
To Even-Year General Elections

Prepared by the Registrar of Voters (ROV) – August 2008

The City of Gilroy, which has about 17,000 registered voters, currently participates in an odd-numbered year election. The city wants to reduce future election costs by moving to an even-numbered year general election.

If the change is approved, the City of Gilroy will experience significant savings in future even-year elections. The Registrar of Voters (ROV) estimates that the city's share of the election cost in November 2009 would be between \$148,000-\$184,000. The same contest in November 2010 would cost approximately \$89,000.

The reason for the City of Gilroy's higher cost to hold odd-year elections is that it has to assume the full cost of a ballot type in an odd-year election. There is no school or special district who shares the same pool of voters or ballot type with the City of Gilroy in an odd-year election.

The total cost of conducting an odd-numbered year election is allocated to a smaller number of participating jurisdictions. Thus, the amount chargeable to each jurisdiction in an odd-numbered year election is usually much higher than the amount chargeable in an even-numbered year statewide election.

There are many jurisdictions participating in an even-numbered year statewide election. Multiple jurisdictions - federal, state, county, city, school and special districts - share the cost of elections. The portion attributable to federal, state and county, which amounts to approximately 70% of the total cost of an even-numbered year election, is absorbed by the county. Thus, the amount chargeable to each local jurisdiction, i.e. cities, schools and special districts – are much lower in an even-numbered year election compared to an odd-numbered year election.

In the last year, the Saratoga Fire Protection District and the City of Los Altos both decided to move their elections from an odd-numbered year to an even-numbered year. This move changes the allocation of the total odd-year election cost by reducing the aggregate registered voter base used for allocation by approximately 30,000 voters. As a result of this change, the local jurisdictions remaining in the odd-numbered year elections will realize an increase in their share of the cost of elections. If more and more jurisdictions move over to the even-numbered year general elections, the proportional costs allocated to each of the remaining jurisdictions in the odd-number year elections will increase to a point where it is no longer economically feasible for a jurisdiction to hold an election in the odd-numbered years.

Moving the election date from an odd-numbered year to an even-numbered year also results in an additional year added to each incumbent's term. If their term would be ending in November 2009, and this change is processed, incumbents' terms would automatically extend for one year for the city, until the next even-year election.

Moving a city of this size would have only a minor impact on the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) election systems, including the ballot layout, voting, ballot counting and election reporting systems. There would be an increase of one ballot type to the even-year general elections, which would be paid by the city.