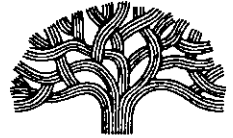


CITY OF OAKLAND



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September 13, 2007

President De La Fuente
& Members of the Rules and
Legislation Committee
City Hall
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Implementation Of Instant Run-Off Voting For The November 4th, 2008 Local Election

Committee Members:

In November, 2006 Measure O passed in the City of Oakland adopting ranked choice voting as the means by which city officers would be elected. The Measure stipulated that ranked choice voting, also known as Instant Run-off Voting (IRV), would be used once the Alameda County Registrar of Voters is able to conduct the election on behalf of the City in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the measure. In addition the measure also stipulated that if ranked choice voting was not used, that the City shall hold Municipal Nominating Elections for the nomination of officers..., which shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in each even-numbered year.

This report provides an overview on the Implementation of Instant Run-Off Voting.

Voting Equipment:

In March, Secretary of State Debra Bowen began her top-to-bottom review of the voting machines certified for use in California. Included in this review was Sequoia Voting Systems the company contracted with Alameda County to create the software and firmware for Instant Run-off Voting (IRV). On August 3 Secretary Bowen released her decisions regarding the top-to-bottom review. The approval for Sequoia was withdrawn and a conditional re-approval was given for the upcoming November 2007 election. Before any use in the 2008 elections Sequoia must meet a very detailed set of standards and the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office, in response to the conclusions drawn in the top-to-bottom review, must submit a security plan to the Secretary of State sometime this month. It is important to note that Sequoia is planning to submit its IRV program to the federal government for certification this month as well.

We are hoping that the above-mentioned submissions will be approved and we can remain on course in preparing for the election. Please note that if Sequoia has not gained approval for the firmware and software and Alameda County is not able to conduct the election, it is highly probable that IRV will not be used for the 2008 Elections.

7
RULES & LEGISLATION
CMTE

SEP 13 2007

Timeframe:

In an effort to maintain the fluidity of the election process, January 4, 2008 has been set as the deadline for determining whether or not IRV will be utilized in 2008. This date was selected based upon the timeframe for preparation for a June 2008 election; for example, the nomination period for the June 2008 election opens on Monday, February 11, 2008 and closes on Friday, March 7, 2008. In addition, there are several pre-election publications that are required by the Elections Code. If the decision is not made in January and it is later determined that IRV cannot be used, there will not be sufficient time as designated in the Elections Code to prepare for the Municipal Nominating election.

Costs:

There are several costs affiliated with the implementation of IRV the two major being, program development by Sequoia and voter education. The current cost for program development is estimated to be \$350,000 a cost to be shared initially by Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. The cost for voter education has not been determined although the Council during the budget set aside \$250,000. Other soft costs to be considered include but are not limited to: additional paper ballot, training, advertising, and outreach.

Voter Education:

To date several meetings have been held with representatives from various organizations, the three cities and the county to discuss a collaborative approach to voter education regarding IRV. The ideas discussed include:

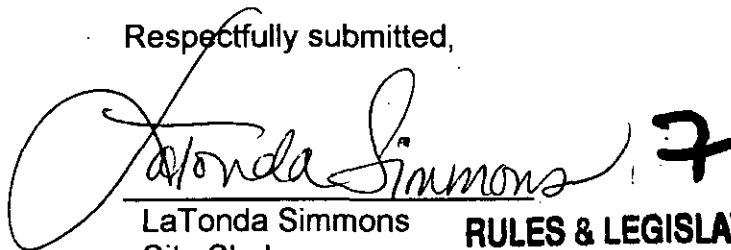
- a video in at least three languages explaining IRV to be used at community meetings and presentations
- place information in the sample ballot/voter information pamphlet
- distribution of a IRV brochure
- advertising (newspaper, radio, buses, bus shelters, etc.)
- local media spots (KTVU, KRON, KTOP)

The committee is planning to meet again in October to further discuss the voter education plan.

Action Requested By Council:

Staff requests that this report be received and filed. As more information becomes available staff will provide updates.

Respectfully submitted,



LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk

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Prepared by: Marjo R. Keller
Assistant City Clerk