

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Elections

BOARD AGENDA:6.B.10  
AGENDA DATE: January 9, 2018

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of the Request from Westport Fire Protection District to Consolidate and Hold Future Elections on the Same Day as the Statewide General Election Conducted in Even-Numbered Years

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0035**

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa , Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

**MOTION:**

ATTEST:   
PAM VILLARREAL, Assistant Clerk

File No. DF-16-25

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Elections

BOARD AGENDA:6.B.10  
AGENDA DATE: January 9, 2018

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval of the Request from Westport Fire Protection District to Consolidate and Hold Future Elections on the Same Day as the Statewide General Election Conducted in Even-Numbered Years

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the request from the governing board of Westport Fire Protection District to consolidate future elections on the same day as the Statewide General Election conducted in even-numbered years.

**DISCUSSION:**

The California legislature has enacted the California Voter Participation Rights Act. Cited in California Elections Code (EC) sections 14050 through 14057, it would prohibit a political subdivision from holding an election other than on a statewide election date if holding an election on a non-statewide election date has *previously* resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout. A "significant decrease in voter turnout" is defined as 25% less than the average voter turnout within that political subdivision for the previous four Statewide General Elections.

Registrar of Voters anticipates the desire of districts within Stanislaus County that have traditionally consolidated into the Uniform District Election Law (UDEL) election held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years to move to consolidate on the same day as the Statewide General Election conducted in even-numbered years.

The governing body of the Westport Fire Protection District has submitted a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to place its election of governing body members to be held on the same day as the Statewide General Election conducted in even-numbered years.

<b>Special District</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Date of Resolution</b>
Westport Fire Protection District	002-2017	December 12, 2017

If the Board of Supervisors approves this request, consistent with California Elections Code section 10404, the Westport Fire Protection District will change its election dates from November of odd-numbered years to the Statewide General Election held in even-numbered years. The Resolution (Attachment) requests the Board of Supervisors to

approve the District's request to schedule its board member elections in 2020 and 2022 to consolidate with the Statewide General Election in even-numbered years.

Pursuant to Elections Code 10404 (c) the Board of Supervisors has notified all districts located in the County of Stanislaus of the receipt of the resolution to consolidate and requested input from each district on the effect of consolidation.

Pursuant to Elections Code 10404 (f), within thirty (30) days after the approval of the resolution by the Board of Supervisors, the Registrar of Voters shall notify all registered voters of the district affected by the consolidation. The notice shall be delivered by mail and at the expense of the school district.

### County Impact

An analysis conducted by the Registrar of Voters office pursuant to Elections Code 10404 (d) indicates that the Elections System and Software voting system currently used in Stanislaus County can accommodate these district changes. With the addition of districts to the Statewide General Election Ballot, the physical length of each ballot card increases from 14 inches to a maximum of 19 inches in length; the number of ballot cards can increase from one ballot card per voter per election to two ballot cards per voter per election; and additional ballot types, additional sample ballot pamphlets, voting units, printers, precinct ballot tabulators and vote-by-mail ballot tabulators will be required to process votes and to provide timely results.

The original purpose of the Unified District Election Law (UDEL) odd-numbered year election was to provide a local election platform for districts and candidates to appeal to voters, avoiding conflict with the extensive State and Federal general election cycle. Local candidates in an odd-numbered year election are prominent and can better educate voters on their election race. These same candidates and races in an even-year election are considered "down ballot" contests and receive fewer votes, and often are the recipients of "pattern" votes where a voter votes the first, second or last candidate on each race depending on the ballot position their selected presidential or gubernatorial candidate is positioned on the ballot.

The unique preparation and election requirements for a UDEL election require the Elections Office to prepare candidate nomination documents, Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) monetary requirements and election law filing requirements which are different from those in the current General Election even-year cycle. Once these two very different election types are consolidated into a single even-numbered year election, the Elections Office preparation and cost to the County will necessitate an increase in both budget and staffing to enable two separate mandated elections to coincide on the same ballot within the same election cycle.

### **POLICY ISSUE:**

As required by Elections Code 10404 (b)(2), the Westport Fire Protection District has notified the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors that it has passed a resolution requesting the consolidation of board member elections with future Statewide General

Elections, which will move the current election dates of the seated board members from odd-numbered to even-numbered years.

Elections Code 10404 (e) requires that the Board of Supervisors approve the resolutions unless it finds that Stanislaus County's ballot style, voting equipment or computer capacity is such that additional elections or materials cannot be handled. No evidence exists to support such a finding.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Registrar of Voters anticipates an increase in election related expenses for the even-numbered election years.

Local elections require a higher level of candidate support including nomination papers, candidate statements, ballots, sample ballot pamphlets and additional election preparation. Additional Elections staff support is anticipated, as well as impacts to the County General Fund because the County will be responsible to pay the increased division costs attributed to the Elections Division.

The Westport Fire Protection District will continue to be invoiced and reimburse Stanislaus County for election specific costs to conduct their district election in even-numbered years. The blending of local elections with statewide elections is anticipated to increase the overall level of services required of the Registrar of Voters.

Alternately, as fewer districts continue to consolidate with the Uniform District Election Law (UDEL), it is likely to drive up costs for those remaining districts that continue to hold their elections in odd-numbered years.

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this approval. Any increases in costs will be addressed in the respective budget year affected.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

The recommended actions are consistent with the Boards' priority of *Delivering Efficient Public Services and Infrastructure* by consolidating local district elections with the Statewide General Elections in even-numbered years.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Consolidation of local district elections with Federal, State and County even-numbered year contests is anticipated to increase the level of staffing services in the Elections Division to conduct two different types of mandated elections on the same established election date.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Lee Lundrigan, County Registrar of Voters

209-525-5211

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Governing Board of the Westport Fire Protection District Resolution to Reschedule Election of the Governing Board Members

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**WESTPORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 002-2017**

2017 DEC 13 A 9:53

**Resolution to Reschedule Election of Governing Board Members**

**A Resolutions by the Governing Board of the Westport Fire Protection District (“Board”) for consolidation of future governing board member elections with the statewide general election pursuant to Elections Code 1303(b)**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board (“Board”) of the Westport Fire Protection District consists of five (5) members elected from within the District; and

**WHEREAS**, Election Code 1304 set forth the general rule that Fire Protection District governing board members serve staggered terms and are elected in odd numbered years; and

**WHEREAS**, the current date for the election of governing board members of the District is every two (2) years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd numbered years (e.g., November 2017) (Election Code 1303(b) and Elections Code 10404(b); and

**WHEREAS**, the next Governing Board elections for positions held by John Varni and Stacy Cardoso are currently scheduled for 2019, and the nest Governing Board elections for positions held by Edward Amador and Norman Hyder are currently scheduled for November 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the District is located within Stanislaus County; and

**WHEREAS**, generally voter participation is greater for statewide general elections conducted in even numbered years than for local elections conducted in odd numbered years; and

**WHEREAS**, commencing January 1, 2018, Election Code 14050 through 10457 known as the California Voter Participation Rights Act requires districts to adopt a plan by January 1, 2018 to transition their governing board elections to the same date at statewide general elections conducted in even numbered years if past governing board elections held on election dates in odd numbered yeas resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant decrease in voter turnout is defined as voter turnout at least 25% less than the average voter turnout for the previous four statewide general elections; and

**WHEREAS**, based on history of voter participation within the boundaries of the District if is likely that the District may be required to adopt a plan to transition to even numbered year statewide general elections no later than January 1, 2018, pursuant to Elections Code 14052(b); and

**WHEREAS**, a political subdivision may hold an off-cycle election if, by January 1, 2018, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate future elections with a statewide general election no later than the November 8, 2022, statewide general election; and

**WHEREAS**, regardless of whether the District is required to formulate a plan and as a result of these facts, the Governing Board desires to change the date to future Governing Board member elections to be consolidated with the California statewide general election which may result in a cost savings of public funds and provide greater voter input into Fire Protection board elections; and

**WHEREAS**, Elections Code 1303(b) establishes a procedure whereby the Governing Board may change the elections date for its Governing Board members by adopting a resolution seeking approval of the change by the Board of Supervisors of the affected county (Elections Code 10404(b); Elections Code 10505(d); Health & Safety Code 13886); and

**WHEREAS**, if the change in election date is approved, the November 2019 Governing Board election date will be moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2020 and the November 2021 Governing Board election date will be moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2022. The terms of Governing Board members which would have expired in 2019 and 2021 will be extended by on (1) year (not to exceed beyond December 31 of the extended year.) Election Code 10404(i) [refer to Appendix A]; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Westport Fire Protection District adopts this resolution to consolidate the election date for members of the Governing Board with the date for the California general election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year (Election Code 1001) pursuant to Election Code 1303(b)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** The Board President will forward this resolution to the Board of Supervisors requesting formal approval of the change by the Board of Supervisors at a public meeting held within 60 days after submission and after the resolution has been made public and posted in accordance to Election Code 10404(e) unless the Board of Supervisors finds that the ballot style, voting equipment or computer capacity is such that additional elections or materials cannot be handled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** If the consolidation of election is approved by the Board of Supervisors, the terms of office of all members of the Governing Board shall be extended one (1) year as described in Appendix A.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the consolidation of election is approved, the term of office of Governing Board members expiring in December 2019 will be extended to December 2020 and the term of Governing Board members expiring in December 2021 will be extended to December 2022 and each subsequent Governing Board member election will be held two (2) years thereafter in November of even numbered years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the District will pay the Stanislaus County Registrar of Voters for the expense of mailing the notice of approval of the change in election dates as required by Election Code 10404 (f).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** The Board President and his designees are hereby authorized and directed to take any other steps necessary to effectuate the purpose and intent of this resolution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Westport Fire Protection District Board

Education on this 12 day of December by the following vote:

**AYES:** Directors: Ed Amador, Stacy Cardoso and Norman Hyer

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** John Varni

**ABSTAIN:** None

**Board President:**

  
Ed Amador