

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: July 16, 2007

Agenda Item: 3(C)	Prepared By: Laura Litzan, City Clerk Date: July 3, 2007
Agenda Section: Business: Discussion	
Subject: City Council Elections	Department: Executive

BACKGROUND:

City Council is asked to review a proposed draft ordinance for City Council elections and discuss election date options. With Council's concurrence, the ordinance will be presented for first reading at the Council meeting of August 6, 2007.

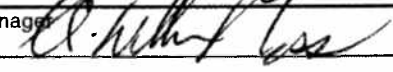
On June 18th, City Council discussed amending the date of municipal elections to coincide with the recent legislatively adopted presidential primary date of the last Tuesday in January (June 18th agenda summary attached). Following discussion, City Council directed preparation of an ordinance providing for an amendment of the city election from the 2nd Tuesday in March of even-numbered years to the 1st Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even-numbered years to coincide with state and national elections, beginning November 2008. This amendment would eliminate approximately \$30,000 of election expenses every two years.

Following the June 18th meeting, a local newspaper reported that at least four members of City Council do not intend to support an amendment to the November general elections beginning in 2008. It is therefore assumed that City Council may wish to discuss other alternatives prior to consideration of the ordinance on first reading. These alternatives include:

- Move the election to coincide with the state primary election on the last Tuesday of January, every four years. Move the date of elections occurring thereafter in non-primary years (2010, 2014 etc.) to the last Tuesday in January, or maintain the Charter imposed date of the second Tuesday in March. Municipal elections held coincident with the primary will be at the polls; elections held during non-primary years will be by mail ballot. Anticipated cost: \$30,000 every four years.
- Maintain the current election date and term of office as required by the City Charter. All municipal elections will be held on the 2nd Tuesday in March of even-numbered years by mail ballot. Anticipated cost: \$30,000 every two years.
- Move election date to coincide with the national elections in November beginning in 2010 or 2012, assuming there is no longer interest in a November 2008 amendment. All municipal elections will be held at the polls on the 1st Tuesday, following the first Monday, in November of even-numbered years. Anticipated cost: \$0 beginning with 2010 election.
- Any other election date or term of office that may warrant consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This subject matter is presented for discussion and further direction only.

Reviewed by Department Director	Reviewed by City Manager 
Council Action: Motion by:	Second by: