City of Los Angeles
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

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ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

November 24, 2014

Honorable Members of the
Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

RE: FEES FOR ELECTION RECOUNTS

Honorable Members:

Los Angeles City Election Code Section 1400 (e) requires the City Clerk to recommend to the City Council, at least three months prior to each biennial Primary Nominating Election, the fees charged for a recount and the amount of the bond required of any registered voter demanding a recount. The City's next biennial Primary Nominating Election will be held on March 3, 2015. Voters may request the City Clerk perform a manual or electronic recount of any race.

Manual Recount
Based on the staffing requirements necessary to conduct the one percent manual tally in past elections, the City's manual recount fees would be $9,246 per day plus $0.17 for each ballot recounted manually. The daily rate includes costs for the setup, supervision of the tally and the executive recount board. The cost per ballot reflects staffing for tallying of ballots (computation details are shown in Attachment A).

Example:

COST OF MANUAL RECOUNT OF A COUNCIL DISTRICT RACE (30,000 ballots)		COST OF MANUAL RECOUNT OF A CITYWIDE RACE (450,000 ballots)	
Daily Rate (1 day @ $9,246/day):	$9,246	Daily Rate (9 days @ $9,246/day):	$83,214
Tally of 30,000 ballots @ $0.17/ea:	5,100	Tally of 450,000 ballots @ $0.17/ea:	76,500
Total:	**$14,346**	**Total:**	**$159,714**

Electronic Recount

Based on prior election tallies, the City's electronic recount fees would be $1,999 for the cost of setup. In addition, a fee of $0.14 will be charged for each ballot recounted electronically (computation details are shown in Attachment B).

Example:

COST OF ELECTRONIC RECOUNT OF A COUNCIL DISTRICT RACE (30,000 ballots)		COST OF ELECTRONIC RECOUNT OF A CITYWIDE RACE (450,000 ballots)	
Setup:	$1,999	Setup:	$ 1,999
Tally of 30,000 ballots @ $0.14/ea:	4,200	Tally of 450,000 ballots @ $0.14/ea:	63,000
Total:	$6,199	Total:	$64,999

We therefore recommend that the Council instruct the City Attorney, with the cooperation of the City Clerk, to prepare the necessary ordinance to provide the following election recount fee schedule:

1. Amend the manual recount fees for any municipal election conducted by the City of Los Angeles to be $9,246 per day for each day that the recount is being conducted plus an additional $0.17 per ballot for each ballot recounted manually.

2. Amend the electronic recount fees for any municipal election conducted by the City of Los Angeles to be $1,999 plus an additional $0.14 per ballot for each ballot recounted electronically.

Since bond requirements are calculated on the basis of the fees required and the number of ballots cast, the required bond amounts will change accordingly if the proposed fee schedule is approved.

Sincerely,

Holly L. Wolcott
City Clerk

Attachments

HLW:amm
EXE-033-14

ATTACHMENT A
MANUAL RECOUNT COSTS
WITH INDIRECT COSTS - CAP 36 (FY 2013-14)

	Dept/Position	No. of Staff	No. of Hours	Hourly Rate	Net Salaries	CTO	Gross Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Central Services	Dept Admin	Total
	City Clerk					5.49%		70.81%	49.57%	23.22%	
	CC (Part-time)					0.00%		24.28%	49.57%	23.22%	
	Mayor					14.81%		50.67%	22.18%	29.92%	
	City Attorney					19.80%		32.71%	7.77%	25.29%	
SUPERVISION	MA II	2	8	42.87	685.92	37.66	723.58	512.36	358.68	168.01	1,762.63
	SMA I	1	8	50.64	405.12	22.24	427.36	302.61	211.84	99.23	1,041.05
	SMA II	1	4	62.73	250.92	13.78	264.70	187.43	131.21	61.46	644.80
	Ch MA	1	4	75.77	303.08	16.64	319.72	226.39	158.48	74.24	778.84
SYSTEMS	SSA II	1	2	62.73	125.46	0.07	125.53	71.14	19.38	23.32	239.37
REVIEW	Dep Mayor	1	8	80.69	645.52	95.60	741.12	375.53	164.38	221.74	1,502.77
(Executive	Dep City Attny	1	8	78.05	624.40	123.63	748.03	244.68	58.12	189.18	1,240.01
Recount Board)	City Clerk	1	8	99.04	792.32	43.50	835.82	591.84	414.32	194.08	2,036.05
TOTAL (Daily Rate)											**9,245.53**

	Dept/Position	No. of Staff	No. of Hours	Hourly Rate	Net Salaries	CTO	Gross Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Central Services	Dept Admin	Total
TALLY	Elec Asst III	3	8	18	432.00	-	432.00	104.89	214.14	100.31	851.34
TOTAL (Tally cost for 5,000 ballots)											**851.34**

The manual recount fees include:

1. A daily rate of $9,245,53 for the setup, supervision of the recount and the recount board; plus

2. A per ballot cost of $0.17 ($851.34/5,000) for each ballot recounted manually.

Notes:

1. Each recount board consisting of 3 members can count approximately 5,000 ballots per day.

2. A maximum of 10 recount boards can be administered at any given time.

ATTACHMENT B
ELECTRONIC RECOUNT COSTS
WITH INDIRECT COSTS - CAP 36 (FY 2013-14)

	Dept/Position	No. of Hours	Hourly Rate	Net Salaries	CTO	Gross Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Central Services	Dept Admin	Total
	City Clerk				5.49%		70.81%	49.57%	23.22%	
	Mayor				14.81%		50.67%	22.18%	29.92%	
	City Attorney				19.80%		32.71%	7.77%	25.29%	
SET-UP	SSA II	3	62.73	188.19	10.33	198.52	140.57	98.41	46.10	483.60
	Sys Prgm I	3	53.23	159.69	8.77	168.46	119.28	83.50	39.12	410.36
	Prgm Analyst IV	3	50.50	151.50	8.32	159.82	113.17	79.22	37.11	389.32
	Prgm Analyst III	3	46.7	140.10	7.69	147.79	104.65	73.26	34.32	360.02
	Ch MA	1	75.77	75.77	4.16	79.93	56.60	39.62	18.56	194.71
	SMA II	1	62.73	62.73	3.44	66.17	46.86	32.80	15.37	161.20
TOTAL (Flat Rate)										**1,999.20**

	Dept/Position	No. of Hours	Hourly Rate	Net Salaries	CTO	Gross Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Central Services	Dept Admin	Total
TALLY	MA II	1	42.87	42.87	2.35	45.22	32.02	22.42	10.50	110.16
	Dir of Sys	1	75.77	75.77	4.16	79.93	56.60	39.62	18.56	194.71
	SSA II	1	62.73	62.73	3.44	66.17	46.86	32.80	15.37	161.20
	Sys Prgm I	1	53.23	53.23	2.92	56.15	39.76	27.83	13.04	136.79
	Prgm Analyst IV	1	50.50	50.50	2.77	53.27	37.72	26.41	12.37	129.77
	Prgm Analyst III	1	46.7	46.70	2.56	49.26	34.88	24.42	11.44	120.01
REVIEW	Dep Mayor	1	80.69	80.69	11.95	92.64	46.94	20.55	27.72	187.85
(Executive	Dep City Attny	1	78.05	78.05	15.45	93.50	30.59	7.27	23.65	155.00
Recount Board)	City Clerk	1	99.04	99.04	5.44	104.48	73.98	51.79	24.26	254.51
TOTAL (Tally and review costs for 10,000 ballots)										**1,449.99**

The electronic recount fees include:

1. A flat rate of $1,999.20 for the setup; plus
2. A per ballot cost of $0.14 ($1,449.99/10,000) for each ballot recounted electronically.

Note: Each card reader can process approximately 10,000 ballots per hour.