SHARON M. TSO
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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December 17, 2014

Holly Wolcott, City Clerk
200 N Spring Street, Room 360
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Wolcott:

Pursuant to Section 604 of the City Election Code, attached please find the Chief Legislative Analyst's Impartial Summaries for the March 3, 2015 Primary Nominating Election, as listed below:

- New City Election Dates and Schedules; One-Time Adjustment to Align Terms with New Election Dates by 2020 (Charter Amendment 1);
- New Election Dates and Schedules for the Los Angeles Unified School District; One-Time Adjustment to Align Terms with New Election Dates by 2020 (Charter Amendment 2).

An electronic copy has been sent to Mayra Puchalski of your staff. Please do not hesitate to call me, or Chris Concepción of my staff, if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Tso
Chief Legislative Analyst

NEW CITY ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES; ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020

(CHARTER AMENDMENT 1)

NEW CITY ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES; ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020. CHARTER AMENDMENT 1.

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) establishes election dates for City elections. The measure would amend the Charter relative to election dates for primary nominating and general municipal elections, by making permanent, and one-time adjustments, to election schedules, terms of office, and other related changes to align City election laws with the new election dates.

The proposed measure would make the following changes:

- New City Election Dates - the measure would change the primary nominating election to the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years. The general municipal election would be held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. These election days are the same as State elections. Currently, the primary nominating election is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in March, and the general municipal election is held on the third Tuesday in May, of odd-numbered years. Additionally, the start date of office for Elected Officials would change from the first day of July in odd-numbered years, to the second Monday of December in even-numbered years, to conform to the new election dates.
- Effective Date - this measure would take effect in the year 2020 for even-numbered Council Districts, and in the year 2022 for Citywide offices and odd-numbered Council Districts.
- Transition to New Election Dates - in order to align the new start date of office, the measure provides that City Officials elected in 2015 and 2017 would run for a 5 ½ year term. This transition would be a one-time adjustment. All City offices would resume 4 year terms effective 2020 and 2022.
- Vacancy Elections - the measure would provide the City Council with the option of calling a special election to fill a vacancy and to make a temporary appointment to fill the vacant office. Additionally, it would adjust the date until which an appointee would serve, to reflect the new election dates.
- Initiative Elections - the measure provides that the City Council may submit an initiative to the voters at the next regular City election, the next State election, or at a separate election. Also, the measure would allow initiative proponents to withdraw their measure before an election on the initiative is scheduled, consistent with State law.
- Referendum Elections - the measure would allow the City Council to schedule an election on a referendum petition at the next regular City election, the next State election, or at a separate election.
- Recall Elections - the measure would require that a recall election be held between 88-125 days of Council action on a certified recall petition, consistent with State law.

- Redistricting Schedule - the measure would require that the redistricting process be completed six months earlier to be effective for the 2022 elections.
- Canvass Period - the measure would allow the City Clerk 28 days to canvass election returns, which would more closely align the Charter with State law.

The Charter requires that City and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) elections be administered together. The accompanying ballot measure, Charter Amendment 2, would make similar changes to the Charter in order to comply with the City's obligations of administering LAUSD elections. Therefore, both measures contain a contingency clause which would make the effectiveness of each measure dependent upon the passage of the other.

NEW ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES FOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD); ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020

(CHARTER AMENDMENT 2)

NEW ELECTION DATES AND SCHEDULES FOR THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD); ONE-TIME ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN TERMS WITH NEW ELECTION DATES BY 2020. CHARTER AMENDMENT 2.

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY
BY SHARON M. TSO, CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

The Los Angeles City Charter (Charter) establishes election dates for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) elections. The measure would amend the Charter relative to election dates for primary nominating and general municipal elections for the LAUSD Board of Education, by making permanent, and one-time adjustments, to election schedules, terms of office, and other related changes to align City election laws with the new election dates.

The proposed measure would make the following changes:

- New LAUSD Election Dates - the measure would change the primary nominating election to the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years. The general municipal election would be held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. These election days are the same as State elections. Currently, the primary nominating election is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in March, and the general municipal election is held on the third Tuesday in May, of odd-numbered years. Additionally, the start date of office for Board of Education Officials would change from the first day of July in odd-numbered years, to the second Monday of December in even-numbered years, to conform to the new election dates.

- Effective Date - this measure would take effect in the year 2020 for odd-numbered Board of Education districts, and in the year 2022 for even-numbered Board of Education districts.

- Transition to New Election Dates - in order to align the new start date of office, the measure provides that Board of Education Officials elected in 2015 and 2017 would run for a 5 ½ year term. This transition would be a one-time adjustment. All Board of Education offices would resume 4 year terms effective 2020 and 2022.

- Vacancy Elections - the measure would provide the Board of Education with the option of calling a special election to fill a vacancy and to make a temporary appointment to fill the vacant office. Additionally, it would adjust the date until which an appointee would serve, to reflect the new election dates.

- Recall Elections - the measure would require that a recall election be held between 88-125 days of Council action on a certified recall petition, consistent with State law.

- Redistricting Schedule - the measure would require that the redistricting process be completed six months earlier to be effective for the 2022 elections.

- Canvass Period - the measure would allow the City Clerk 28 days to canvass election returns, which would more closely align the Charter with State law.

The Charter requires that LAUSD and City elections be administered together. The accompanying ballot measure, Charter Amendment 1, would make similar changes to the Charter for City elections. Therefore, both measures contain a contingency clause which would make the effectiveness of each measure dependent upon the passage of the other.