

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE**

DATE: September 14, 2016

ACTION

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 16-

BACKGROUND

Last year, the California Legislature passed and Gov. Brown signed SB 415 (Hueso), the California Voter Participation Rights Act, which requires a local government to hold an election on a statewide election date if holding an election on a non-concurrent date has previously resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout. The bill would require the consolidation of elections starting on January 1, 2018.

In writing the bill, Sen. Ben Hueso (D-San Diego) stated that "one way to increase voter turnout in local elections is to hold them with statewide and federal elections, where voter turnout is often twice as high. Elections held on the same date can help reduce voter fatigue and make voting more habit forming, while saving local government on administrative costs."

"Significant decrease in voter turnout" is defined in the act as when voter turnout for a regularly scheduled local election is at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within that local government for the previous four statewide general elections.

The Mt. San Antonio Community College District has held its elections, as allowed under current law, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each odd-numbered year.

ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT

Voter turnout in Trustee Area 1 in November 2015 was 3,581 or 5.87% of registered voters. L.A. County turnout in November 2015 was 11.23% of registered voters. For the most recent statewide election June 7, 2016, L.A. County voter turnout was 42.13%. Data is not available for Trustee Area 1 precinct voter numbers for June 2016 or June/November 2014, but it is evident that this average would be high enough to mean that our November 2015 number of voters was more than 25% lower.

Prepared by: Jill Dolan

Reviewed by: Bill Scroggins

Recommended by: Bill Scroggins

Agenda Item: Action #

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 16-_____ -

DATE: September 14, 2016

As currently scheduled, the Mt. San Antonio Community College District would hold its elections in 2017 and 2019. However, Elections Code 14052(b) allows the following: "A political subdivision may hold an election other than on a statewide election date if, by January 1, 2018, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate a future election with a statewide election not later than the November 8, 2022, statewide general election."

Changing the next two trustee election terms from four years to five years would allow the Mt. San Antonio Community College District to be compliant with state law by extending the 2017 trustee election term to 2022, and the 2019 trustee election term to 2024.

Consolidating the Mt. San Antonio Community College District's elections with the State of California and/or Los Angeles County will have an unknown fiscal impact for the college. However, a consolidated election may result in a higher cost than a stand-alone election.

There is no fiscal impact by approving the resolution.

Funding Source

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 16-XX, as presented.

Direct staff to send copies of the adopted resolution to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder Office and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 16-_____ -

DATE: September 14, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 16-XX

RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE MT. SAN ANTONIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS WITH STATEWIDE ELECTIONS PER THE CALIFORNIA VOTER PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT

WHEREAS, SB 415, The California Voter Participation Rights Act, as approved by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Brown last year, requires local governments to hold an election on a statewide election date if holding an election on a non-concurrent date has previously resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout; and,

WHEREAS, "Significant decrease in voter turnout" is defined in the bill as the voter turnout for a regularly scheduled local election is at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within that local government for the previous four statewide general elections; and,

WHEREAS, Local elections in Los Angeles County and the Mt. San Antonio College Community College District have had extremely low voter turnouts when they are not consolidated with state and/or federal elections,

WHEREAS, Mt. San Antonio Community College District holds its Board of Trustee elections on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year, which is an established election date under state law, but not concurrent with a statewide election; and,

WHEREAS, According to the "significant decrease" formula in SB 415, the Mt. San Antonio Community College District would be required to take action to consolidate its elections with statewide elections by January 1, 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Elections Code 14052(b) allows the following: "A political subdivision may hold an election other than on a statewide election date if, by January 1, 2018, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate a future election with a statewide election not later than the November 8, 2022, statewide general election"; and,

WHEREAS, modifying the next two trustee election terms from four years to five years by extending the 2017 trustee election term to 2022, and the 2019 trustee election term to 2024, would allow the Mt. San Antonio Community College District to be compliant with state law; and,

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DATE: September 14, 2016

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. San Antonio Community College District hereby approves the consolidation of Board of Trustees Elections with Statewide Elections, specifically the November general election, per the California Voter Participation Rights Act, by extending the 2017 trustee election term to 2022, and the 2019 trustee election term to 2024.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Mt. San Antonio Community College District this 14th day of September 2016 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: