

SB415 - Changing to Even Year Elections
7/25/16

Members of the Board,

Action taken by the Legislature last year (SB 415) requires shifts to statewide elections (even years) when number of voters for a local election is 25% or more below the average in the most recent four statewide elections for those precincts. Voter turnout in Trustee Area 1 in November 2015 was 3,581 or 5.87% of registered voters. LA County-wide turnout in November 2015 was just 11.23% of registered voters. For the most recent statewide election this past June 7th, LA County voter turnout was 42.13%. We do not have the Trustee Area 1 precinct voter numbers for June 2016 and 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.

Consequently, we should take steps to follow Elections Code 14052(b) which states, "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."

Such a plan might, for example, change the next two trustee election terms from four years to five years. The 2017 trustee election term would extend to 2022, and the 2019 trustee election term would extend to 2024. We will put together a more formal analysis and proposal to bring to the Board in an upcoming Board meeting.

Bill

Attached: SB 415