ORDINANCE NO. ORD-19-0001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 1.15, AND BY REPEALING SECTIONS 2.01.210(B) AND 2.01.1010; ALL RELATING TO CHANGING THE REGULAR ELECTION DATES OF THE PRIMARY NOMINATING AND GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO MARCH AND NOVEMBER, RESPECTIVELY, TO COINCIDE WITH STATEWIDE ELECTIONS AS REQUIRED BY SB 415

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach, California ("City") is a municipal corporation and charter city, duly organized under the Constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the California Voter Participation Rights Act (SB 415, codified as Elections Code §§ 14050-14057), effective January 1, 2018, prohibits a public agency, including a charter city, from holding its regular election on any date other than a statewide election date if holding the election on a non-statewide election date results in a "significant decrease in voter turnout," which is defined as at least 25 percent (25%) less than the average voter turnout within the public agency for the previous four (4) statewide general elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Charter sections 1901 and 2206, the City and the Long Beach Unified School District currently hold their primary election on the second Tuesday in April in even-numbered years, and their general municipal election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June in even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, the California Attorney General has opined that SB 415 prevails over conflicting Charter provisions, rendering the City's current Charter
provisions related to election dates void, allowing the City Council to change the
Charter’s election dates without a Charter amendment in order to comply with SB 415;
and

WHEREAS, the City’s primary election date is not a statewide election date
and voter turnout in local Long Beach Municipal elections has been at least 25 percent
(25%) less than the voter turnout for the previous four (4) statewide general elections;
and

WHEREAS, the general municipal election cannot be held on the same
date as the primary election and thus will also be required to change; and

WHEREAS, SB 568 requires the statewide primary election to be held on
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, beginning in 2019; and

WHEREAS, State law allows a city to increase or decrease the terms of
current municipal officers on a one-time basis by up to twelve (12) months until their
successors are elected and qualified, in order to match their terms with a changed
regular election date; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2017, the City Council of the City of Long
Beach adopted Resolution No. RES-17-0117 and approved changing its primary and
general municipal election dates to the statewide general election dates, now in March
and November of even-numbered years, beginning in 2020, to increase voter turnout and
to ensure compliance with SB 415, and to achieve consolidation with the statewide
election dates no later than November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also desires to make consistent corrections to
election dates, terms of office and other technical matters in the Long Beach Municipal
Code and to that end, has requested the City Attorney to draft and such present
ordinances to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Long Beach Unified School District has been consulted and
has approved of the plan to implement SB 415;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby
ordains as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are a substantial part of this ordinance.

Section 2. Pursuant to Elections Code sections 1301, 10403.5, and 14052, the City hereby changes its Primary Nominating and General Municipal Election dates to coincide with the statewide direct primary and statewide general elections beginning in 2020. Long Beach City Charter Section 1901 shall be annotated to this effect.

Section 3. Chapter 1.15 is added to the Long Beach Municipal Code to read as follows:

Chapter 1.15

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

1.15.010. General.

Beginning in 2020, the primary nominating election for elective officers of the City shall be held in even-numbered years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. The general municipal election shall be held in even-numbered years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Candidates elected to office shall assume such office on the third Tuesday in December and shall serve until the election and qualification of their successors. Only those elected offices shall be filled which become vacant on the third Tuesday of December of that year.

1.15.020 Terms of office.

In order to transition from the current June general election date to the new November statewide general election date, there shall be a one-time adjustment to the terms of City elected officers, as follows:
A. Beginning in 2020, candidates shall be nominated in March, elected in November and assume office on the third Tuesday in December.

B. The terms of office for City Council members elected in the 2016 and 2018 elections shall be extended by five (5) months (July to December) to match them with the new election cycle, as permitted by California Elections Code section 10403.5(b).

The terms of office for Citywide officials (City Auditor, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, Mayor) elected in the April or June, 2018 elections shall be extended by five (5) months (July to December) to match them with the new election cycle, as permitted by California Elections Code section 10404.5(g).

C. The terms of office for Long Beach Unified School District members elected in the 2016 election shall be extended by five (5) months (July to December) to match them with the new election cycle, as permitted by California Elections Code section 10404.5(g).

D. Municipal officers elected to new terms in November, 2022 and in all future elections shall serve standard four-year terms.

1.15.030 Election cycle.

'Election Cycle' means that period commencing with January 1 of an odd-numbered year and ending December 31 of the following year. For a special election, the Election Cycle commences with the declaration of a vacancy in an elective office and ends six (6) months after the special election date.

1.15.040 Campaign funds.

Any funds remaining to a candidate, or any controlled committee of such candidate, ninety (90) days following the end of the Election Cycle, during which such funds have been raised, shall be defined as "surplus funds" and shall be disposed of only as provided in this Chapter. Funds retained by a candidate and specifically earmarked for payment of
campaign expenses lawfully incurred during the Election Cycle need not be included in surplus funds provided that such expense payment is made no later than ninety (90) days after the end of the Election Cycle.

1.15.050 Notice.

Pursuant to Elections Code 10403.5(e), within thirty (30) days after the ordinance becomes operative, the City elections official shall cause a notice to be mailed to registered voters within the City limits.

1.15.060 Severability.

If any section, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared unconstitutional, or invalid, or ineffective.

1.15.070 CEQA.

This ordinance is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project within the meaning of 14 CCR § 15378 or alternatively, because it is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR § 15061(b)(3)). This ordinance implements changes to the timing of municipal elections that have no potential for direct or indirect changes to the environment.

Section 4. Sections 2.01.210(B) and 2.01.1010 of the Long Beach Municipal Code are hereby repealed.
Section 5. The City Clerk shall transmit copies of this ordinance to the Clerk of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the office of the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder.

Section 6. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council and cause it to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is approved by the Mayor.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of January 8, 2019, by the following vote:


Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Absent: Councilmembers: Austin.

Approved: 11/6/19

(Date)

City Clerk

Mayor
AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  ) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  )
CITY OF LONG BEACH    )

Tamela Austin being duly sworn says: That I am employed in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Long Beach; that on the 10th day of January 2019, I posted three true and correct copies of Ordinance No. ORD-19-0001 in three conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, to wit: One of said copies in the entrance lobby of City Hall in front of the Information Desk; one of said copies in the Main Library; and one of said copies on the front counter of the Office of the City Clerk.

________________________
Tamela Austin

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 10th day of January, 2019.

________________________
CITY CLERK