# General Questions About Long Beach City Elections

***Who administers the municipal election and under what authority?***
The Long Beach City Clerk administers all municipal elections in the City of Long Beach under authority of Long Beach City Charter Section 401(f).

***Why are elections held the first Tuesday in April of even numbered years?***
Long Beach City Charter Section 1901 designates that the primary and general municipal elections for elective officers of the City shall be held in even numbered years, on the second Tuesday in April and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, respectively, and candidates elected to office shall assume such office on the third Tuesday in July and serve until election and qualification of their successors.

***What is the difference between a primary nominating election and a general municipal election?***
A Primary Nominating Election (PNE) is the first of two possible elections.  Candidates are nominated by the voters and appear on the PNE ballot. If any one candidate receives 50% + 1 of the votes cast for that office, that candidate has received a majority vote and is declared elected to that office. If any candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast for that office in the PNE, then a second election is held, the General Municipal Election (GME or runoff), at which the top two vote getters from the PNE are placed on the ballot and the candidate that receives the most votes in the GME/runoff is declared the winner.

***Why aren't Long Beach elections consolidated with the statewide primary and general elections?***
The Long Beach City Charter designates the election dates, and any amendment to the Charter must be approved by a vote of the people.  The County of Los Angeles conducts the statewide primary on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in June, the same day as the City's General Municipal Election.  However, because the City Primary Nominating Election is held just 56 days prior, and not certified by the City Council until 35 days prior, there is not enough time to coordinate the printing of the sample ballot pamphlet for timely delivery to the voters.  Also, the County uses an optical scan paper ballot with 312 voting spaces, which because of the races they currently must handle may not allow enough capacity to accommodate a city with multiple jurisdictions the size of Long Beach.  Because of these two issues, a concurrent election between our two agencies must be held.  A concurrent election is described below.

***What is a concurrent election?***
A concurrent election is when a city has been authorized to call its election on a countywide election date, but the city must conduct its own election because of time considerations or ballot capacity issues as described above.  A concurrent election presents the following issues:
- Voters are required to check in at two separate tables, sign separate rosters, and under current conditions would vote using two different voting systems.  The City uses a digital scan system where the candidates' names are printed directly on the ballot, or should the voter choose to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter would write a qualified write-in candidate's name directly on the ballot and fill in the corresponding vote target.  The County uses an optical scan system and the names of the candidates do not appear on the ballot.  The County ballot has numbers that correspond to names and numbers in their sample ballot booklet.  Should the voter choose to vote for a write-in candidate, the name of the write-in candidate is written on the gray secrecy sleeve.

### What happens in the event of a tie vote?
Any ties in voting shall be settled by the casting of lots under the supervision of and in such manner and place as the City Clerk decides (Long Beach City Charter § 200).

### Where can I get past election results?
Results from past elections are available on the City Clerk website, http://www.longbeach.gov/cityclerk/elections/results/

### How can I find out my districts (congressional, legislative, supervisorial, etc.)?
Contact the Long Beach City Clerk Department at (562) 570-6101, or log on to www.lavote.net and click on "What Are My Districts?"

### Does my vote really make a difference?
Just one vote can and often does make a difference in the outcome of an election.

## Contact Number

General Election Information
(562) 570-6101
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