



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

June 3, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Calling for a General Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2020, for the Election of Certain Officers, Requesting the Marin County Board of Supervisors to Consolidate with any other Election Conducted on that Date, and Requesting Election Services of the County Elections Department

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution.

BACKGROUND

Fairfax holds staggered elections for its 5 councilmembers every other year to elect 3 Councilmembers one year, and 2 Councilmembers two years later (along with the Town Treasurer and Town Clerk). These elections have been held in odd-numbered years, but the Town was required to change its regular municipal election dates from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years in response to the Voter Participation Rights Act of 2016. The Council phased in the change by shortening the 4-year terms to 3 years for Town Councilmembers, the Town Clerk, and the Town Treasurer in the two election cycles following the legislation: November of 2017 and 2019. Beginning with the November 2020 election, the terms of Fairfax officeholders will return to 4 years, and regular municipal elections will be held in even-numbered years.

DISCUSSION

The terms of Councilmembers John Reed, Barbara Coler, and Bruce Ackerman will expire upon the certification of the November 3, 2020 election, and thus three offices will be up for election, each for a four-year term. The filing timeline for candidates and incumbents is as follows:

July 13 - August 7 **Filing Period:** Candidates and incumbents may take out nomination papers from the Fairfax Town Clerk during this period, collect signatures, and file their completed papers with the Town Clerk.

August 12 **Extended Filing Deadline:** If an incumbent does not file by August 7, the deadline for NON-incumbents to file is extended to August 12.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Marin County Registrar of Voters has tentatively estimated the cost of this election to be on the high end of \$1.75 to \$3.00 per registered voter. Staff has budgeted \$16,000.

The significant decrease in cost this year is due to the fact that there are more agencies to share in the cost of the consolidated election in 2020 than there were in 2019. The average per-voter cost is based on the number of agencies. Each agency's share the based on the number of its registered voters and the number of its offices and/or measures on the ballot.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution

RESOLUTION 20-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
CALLING FOR A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD
ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020, FOR THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS,
REQUESTING THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSOLIDATE
WITH THE ANY OTHER ELECTION CONDUCTED ON THAT DATE, AND
REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES OF THE COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, three terms of office on the Fairfax Town Council will expire on the certification of the November 3, 2020, election results; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the California Voter Rights Participation Act, the Town Council adopted Ordinance No. 807 to transition the Town's general municipal election dates from the former odd-year schedule to the even-year statewide general election dates, by providing for a one-time adjustment to the terms of office for those expiring terms; and

WHEREAS, as required by the Section 10403.5 of the California Elections Code the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved the change of election date under Ordinance No. 807; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 10002 and 10403 of the Elections Code, the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax may request the Board of Supervisors to permit the County Elections Department to render specified service to the Town relating to the conduct of the election on a reimbursable basis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax as follows:

1. That an election is hereby called to be held on November 3, 2020, at which election of three (3) Town Council each for a term of four (4) years will be determined; and
2. That the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418; and
3. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to consolidate said election with any other applicable election conducted on the same day; and
4. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to authorize and direct the County Elections Department to provide all necessary election services and to canvass the results of said election; and

5. That Town acknowledges that the County will bear additional costs by reason of this consolidation and agrees to reimburse the County for any such costs upon the Town's receipt of a properly approved invoice; and
6. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the Elections Official of the County of Marin.
7. The Town Clerk shall publish a "Notice of Election" pursuant to California Elections Code §12101.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, County of Marin, State of California, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 3rd day of June 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

RENEE GODDARD, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michele Gardner, Town Clerk