

CONSENT CALENDAR

Date:

7/13/04

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Dona Spring and Mim Hawley

Subject: LETTER TO COUNTY SUPERVISORS FOR IRV

RECOMMENDATION: that the City Council request the City Manager to send the attached letter requesting implementation of IRV in future Berkeley elections.

BACKGROUND: Please see attached letter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981-7140 Mim Hawley
981-7150

To: Alameda County Board of Supervisors
From: Mayor Tom Bates and Berkeley City Council Members

At the March 2003 election, the citizens of Berkeley passed Measure I, allowing Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in future City elections.. Measure I permits the City of Berkeley to adopt an Instant Runoff Voting-type of election when three conditions are met. They are: (1) all technical and legal barriers are removed; (2) City and County elections could still be consolidated; (3) IRV elections would cost the City no more than the current cost of runoff elections.

The City's goal is to be able to run a consolidated IRV election in 2006. We therefore request that you direct Alameda County Registrar of Voters Bradley Clark to direct the County's voting equipment vendor Diebold to seek certification from the Voting Systems Panel of the Secretary of State to conduct IRV elections on the County's voting equipment.

We understand that Registrar Clark anticipated that County election equipment might need to be used for IRV-type elections in the future and that one of the requirements in the original RFP was that vendors must be able to run such elections. The contract between Diebold and the County incorporates the RFP by reference. Therefore, we understand that Diebold's equipment could run such an election and that the additional cost of modifying equipment or software for IRV should be minimal.

Accordingly, we ask that you direct Registrar Clark to direct Diebold to seek certification for its equipment from the Voting Systems Panel of the Secretary of State. Please keep us informed of the company's progress and the likely date of achieving certification.

Berkeley is just beginning the process to adopt an ordinance that would establish the standards and specific details for conducting an IRV election, so this seems a good opportunity for the Registrar and interested charter cities to work with the vendor to establish a single, common approach to IRV in

Alameda County. We are communicating with the cities of Oakland and San Leandro to invite their collaboration. We expect to communicate with the Secretary of State's office as well.

We are also directing our City Clerk Sherry Kelly to develop a proposed set of standards and an ordinance for the City. The City Clerk will be our liaison with the other cities and with County Registrar Bradley Clark and the vendor.

We recognize that the Registrar is currently working with Diebold to straighten out a variety of pressing problems. Please have him add the IRV requirements and the request for seeking state certification of their IRV-ready equipment to the instructions to Diebold.

Please inform City Clerk Sherry Kelley and our Council about any additional barriers, besides modifying the Diebold equipment and/or software, that the Registrar identifies that would prevent our city from moving forward promptly to run consolidated instant runoff voting elections in Alameda County on the county's touch screen equipment in 2006.

