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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

COST ESTIMATE – ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

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The following estimate of the cost of implementing Election Day voter registration was prepared on behalf of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials. These costs are predicated on Election Day registration at the polls as well as at the office of the election official.

The cost of implementation is estimated at \$6 million per fiscal year. This estimate is comprised of \$4.5 million for the cost of one statewide election and \$1.5 million incurred in the conduct of special and regular municipal, school and special district elections.

Statewide election – the estimate of \$4.5 million (\$.245 per registered voter) is based on the following:

Pollworkers – \$2,300,000 - In order to avoid inconvenience to voters who are properly registered, it would be necessary to hire at least one additional pollworker per precinct in a statewide election. The additional pollworkers would be trained to process voters who need to register at the polls on Election Day.

The number of precincts in a statewide election 2002 is estimated at 28,272. The stipend paid to pollworkers varies from county to county, ranging from approximately \$55 to \$125. The stipend of \$80 was used for in this estimate. This is the amount of the stipend currently paid to pollworkers by the County of Los Angeles for training and service.

Ballots – \$700,000 – In order to provide a sufficient number of ballots at each precinct to accommodate the additional voters who register at the polls on Election Day, it would be necessary to order additional ballots for each precinct (by party in a primary election). The cost of ballots varies significantly depending on the size of the county and the voting system utilized. Counties utilizing a touchscreen voting system would only need to purchase additional ballots to be issued to absentee voters in the office of the election official.

The above estimate is based on a 10% increase in the number of ballots ordered in Alameda, Orange and Sonoma counties. Alameda's estimate is based on a touchscreen voting system, while Orange and Sonoma Counties' estimates are based on two different multi-card voting systems. Due to the pending decertification of the Votomatic and Pollstar voting systems, estimates for these systems were not included.

Supplies – \$600,000 – Assigning an additional pollworker to each precinct would result in an increase in the number of appointment notices required, as well as increasing expenditures for postage and training materials. Providing for registration at the polls would necessitate special forms, envelopes, pencils, pens, written instructions to voters and posters explaining Election Day registration at the polls. The written instructions and posters would need to be provided in multiple languages as required by the Federal Voting Rights Act and local ordinance. The estimated cost of supplies is based on \$20 per precinct (see **Pollworkers** for the estimated number of precincts in a statewide election in 2002).

Staff Time - \$700,000 – Additional staff would be necessary to recruit and train additional pollworkers, develop, print and distribute training materials, develop, translate and print informational materials, answer telephone calls from pollworkers and voters, perform data entry and produce notices of appointment and stipend warrants. The estimate of the cost of providing the services listed above was provided by Sacramento and Santa Cruz Counties.

Local elections within a fiscal year – the estimate of \$1.5 million (\$.123 per registered voter). Is based on the following:

Most special and regular municipal, school and special district elections historically have produced lower interest and voter turnout which would result in fewer voters needing to register on Election Day. Thus, the additional cost of Election Day registration in a local election would be less than that in a statewide election due to fewer additional ballots to be ordered, fewer additional pollworkers required to register voters, fewer supplies needed and less staff time required.

The number of voters eligible to participate in local elections varies significantly from year to year. The above estimate is based on the average number of voters eligible to participate in such elections as reported by 16 counties.

Dated: 11/01/2001