

Cotati City Council

Agenda Staff Report

Item type: CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)
To: City Council
Subject: Agreement between the City of Cotati and the County of Sonoma for Election Services
Date: August 22, 2017
Written by: Lauren Berges, Deputy City Clerk

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving an agreement between the City of Cotati and the County of Sonoma for election services and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Background

Under the California Government Code, a City may contract with the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters to provide services to conduct the City's municipal elections. The City of Cotati (as well as other cities in Sonoma County) have previously entered into similar contracts. The current contract for conducting municipal elections is set to expire on December 31, 2017. The proposed contract would go into effect January 1, 2018 and expire December 31, 2022.

Analysis/Discussion

The contract proposes to provide election services, supplies and equipment to the City for its municipal elections and is substantially the same as the current contract, with minor revisions generally to define and clarify some references.

Cotati municipal elections take place in even numbered years pursuant to Cotati Municipal Code §1.10.010 and the City budget funds accordingly. To continue to use the County for consolidated elections in 2018, the City must sign and return the elections services no later than October 20.

In the final year of our current election services contract with the County, the City will be participating in the consolidated election for the purpose of submitting to Cotati voters an ordinance of the City of Cotati adding chapter 5.30 (Cannabis Business Tax) to the Cotati Municipal Code and amending chapter 5.04 (General Business Tax) of the Cotati Municipal

Code.

Financial Considerations

The cost of an election is based on the number of registered voters as well as the number of candidates and measures (if any) on the ballot. For example, the 2017 ballot will have one measure on the ballot. The County has estimated costs at \$4 to \$7 per voter. Total estimated cost for the 2017 election provided by the County is between \$17,252 and \$30,191. This is funded by the General Fund, within the City Manager's department.

Environmental Issues

The action of approving an agreement between the City of Cotati and the County of Sonoma does not constitute a project as defined by California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378; therefore, no further environmental review is required.