

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 02/04/08

Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Cost of Consolidated Election Services

REPORT BY: Jacqueline L. Bucholz, City Clerk

MAYOR RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the cost for consolidated election services.

BACKGROUND

The City Clerk contacted the Registrar of Voters regarding an estimate for the cost of consolidating with the June, 2008 election. The Registrar informed the City Clerk that an approximate cost to consolidate in June would be \$3 - \$5 per registered voters. In June, 2006, the consolidated cost was \$1.77 per registered voter.

The City has approximately 9,500 registered voters and the consolidation rate could be \$28,500 (\$3 per registered voter), \$38,000 (\$4 per registered voter) or \$47,500 (\$5 per registered voter). There would additional costs for printing, typesetting, translating and publication, which were \$7,000 in 2006 but which may have cost increases. Therefore, at this time the rough cost estimate for a June ballot measure is between \$35,500 and \$53,000.

The increase is due to problems associated with the voting machines and the use of paper ballots, new security procedures, ballots that have to be sorted by precinct and the use of extra staff time to accommodate all the changes.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Lieber is concerned that due to the higher costs it would become impossible for the City to hold an election other than its regular scheduled November election. Mayor Lieber believes the City should go on record with the County opposing the high costs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Reduction in Consolidated Election Services

Attachments:

Letter to Board of Supervisors