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COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5650
(530) 622-3645 Fax



Michael Ranalli
District IV

JAMES S. MITRISIN
Clerk of the Board

DATE: August 10, 2018
TO: Supervisor John Hidahl, District I
Supervisor Shiva Frentzen, District II
Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, District II
Supervisor Sue Novasel, District V
FROM: Supervisor Michael Ranalli, District IV
CC: Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Tuesday, August 14, 2018, Agenda - #18-1242

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As part of the Tuesday, August 14, 2018, agenda I have submitted File #18-1242 (Agenda Item #30) recommending the Board consider revisiting the Board's approval to establish the Registrar of Voters as a stand-alone Department and the formal designation of the Registrar of Voters as a Department Head appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Our County is fortunate, due to the stable and judicious guidance of William E. Schultz, to have knowledgeable and professional employees in our Elections Department who are dedicated to ensuring the integrity of our local elections. My agenda item for Tuesday is not a question of their ability or integrity.

My agenda item for Tuesday is to ensure that our Board fully contemplates the challenges that lie ahead for a newly created county department, especially on the eve of significant changes in Election functions statewide and the implementation of a new Election system for our County.

This item is to also acknowledge the ongoing concern from within the community as to the decision to designate the Registrar of Voters as a Department Head appointed by the Board of Supervisors. As noted in the text of the agenda item, Government Code section 26802.5 provides that El Dorado County is one (1) of thirteen (13) counties in which a "registrar of voters **may** be appointed by the board of supervisors in the same manner as other county officers are appointed. In those counties, the county clerk is not ex officio registrar of voters, and the

Board of Supervisors

August 10, 2018

Page 2

registrar of voters shall discharge all duties vested by law in the county elections official that relate to and are a part of the election procedure." However, due to the analysis prepared by the Charter Review Committee Chair Kris Payne, and attached to the agenda item, it is clear that we have options to contemplate.

Our County continues to make significant progress towards the improvement of our information technology infrastructure. We are all fully aware that the implementation of a new system requires a considerable investment of staff time and resources for any department. I believe we owe it to our Elections Department staff and our constituents to ensure that we have fully vetted our original action so as to ensure the continued operational success of this Department. Placing the Registrar of Voters as a position, department or division under the direction of a constitutionally elected Department Head will provide the Elections Department with additional resources to support the Department in their transition from under the guidance of the Recorder-Clerk and in preparation for the implementation of a new system.

As part of the discussion of this item, I will also ask that the Board consider including the Director of Information Technologies, or his designated Deputy Director, in the development and implementation of the new Election system.

While such an action may seem to be inherent as part of our earlier action and in preparation for a new system, I believe that is important that this Board confirms for our staff and constituents that the IT Department will have a lead role in the development and then implementation of our new Elections system, ensuring that cybersecurity safeguards are employed and then continued as part of the monitoring and upgrades as a permanent function of a system's ongoing maintenance.

I look forward to our discussion on Tuesday.

Thank you.