

EL DORADO COUNTY CALIFORNIA
Chief Administrative Office

2007 MAR -2 PM 2:41

March 2, 2007

Memo To: Board of Supervisors
From: Laura S. Gill, Chief Administrative Officer *Laura S. Gill*
Subject: Clarification of Recommendation to Agenda Item #32 for March 6, 2007 –
Proposed County Charter Amendment

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

Recommendation

Chief Administrative Officer recommending that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel and me to draft an amendment to the County Charter, addressing the expedient replacement of a member of the Board of Supervisors when a vacancy occurs, for approval by the Board of Supervisors in time for placement on the February 2008 or June 2008 ballot.

Background

Section 102 of the County Charter requires that an amendment to an existing charter or the repeal of an existing charter may either be proposed by the Board of Supervisors or by a petition signed by at least 10% of the electors who voted at the last gubernatorial election. The amendment or repeal is placed before the voters at the next general or special Countywide election.

Reason for Recommendation

On December 5, 2006 the Board of Supervisors adopted the Final Draft Response to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Mid-Session Report. The Grand Jury states in its report that:

The Grand Jury believes that the El Dorado County Charter needs to be amended to impose an additional standard that supplements California Government Code, Title I, Division 4, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 1770 (g) that defines when a Board of Supervisor's vacancy exists. In addition, the Grand Jury recommends that the El Dorado County Charter be amended to incorporate a more efficient and expedient replacement of a Supervisor when the vacancy occurs during the last year of a term.

The response indicated that the Chief Administrative Officer would return to the Board within three months of adoption of a final response with information regarding the filing deadline to place measures on the June 2008 ballot, and recommendations on the budget and composition of the Charter Review Committee.

Section 701 of the County Charter requires the Board to convene a Charter Review Committee within two years of the effective date of the Charter and within five years of the last Charter review thereafter. The committee shall review the Charter and, after at least two public hearings, make recommendations for amendments to or revisions of the Charter to the Board.

The Board last convened the Charter Review Committee in the fall of 2003. Subsequently, the Board approved certain amendments and revisions and placed them on the November 2004 ballot. Given the timelines provided by the Charter, the Board must convene its next Charter Review Committee in the fall of 2008. Because the entire Charter will be subject to review in the next 18 months, it is more practical and expedient to have the Board address a single Charter issue now and convene a Charter Review Committee next year.

Timelines

The County Recorder-Clerk/Registrar of Voters has provided the following information concerning legal deadlines to the Chief Administrative Office:

For **February 2008** primary: The legal deadline for the Board to place a measure on this ballot is **November 9, 2007**. Given the associated deadlines for ballot layout, notification and printing, the Recorder-Clerk/Registrar of Voters would like measures as close to **October 3, 2007** as possible.

- For the **June 2008** primary: The legal deadline for the Board to place a measure on the June 2008 ballot is **March 7, 2008**. However, given the associated deadlines for ballot layout, notification and printing, the Recorder-Clerk/Registrar of Voters would like measures as close to **January 30, 2008** as possible.

Actions Following Approval

County Counsel and I will work together to draft options and language for the Board's consideration no later than August 21, 2007.