



**CITY OF WILDOMAR
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
GENERAL BUSINESS
Agenda Staff Report # 1.1
Meeting Date: August 18, 2026**

SUBJECT: 2026 General Municipal Election - Uncontested City Council Races in Districts 1 and 3; Consideration of Appointment of Sole Nominees in Lieu of Election

SUBMITTED BY: Janet Morales Garcia, City Clerk

ACTION:

1. Adopt a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDOMAR, CALIFORNIA, APPOINTING NOMINEES FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 1 AND 3 IN LIEU OF THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

or

2. Direct that the election be held in Districts 1 and 3.

SUMMARY:

At the close of the nomination period for the November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election, only one candidate qualified for the ballot in each of City Council Districts 1 and 3. As a result, there is no contested City Council race in either district. California Elections Code Section 10229 allows the City Council, under these circumstances, to appoint the sole nominee in each district to office and cancel the election for those two City Council seats, or to direct that the election proceed as scheduled.

The City Council is therefore being asked to determine whether to appoint the sole nominees, Carlos Marquez in District 1 and Joseph Morabito in District 3, in lieu of conducting an election for those seats, or to proceed with the election in Districts 1 and 3.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Wildomar incorporated on July 1, 2008, as a general law city and therefore must adhere to all laws pertaining to the conduct and holding of elections as set forth in the California Elections Code.

On June 10, 2026, the City Council called for the General Municipal Election for District 1 (Mayor Marquez), District 3 (Councilmember Morabito), and District 5 (Councilmember DePhillippo). At the close of the nomination period on Friday, August 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., only one person had been nominated for the office of City Council Member in each of Districts 1 and 3. Incumbent Carlos Marquez was the sole nominee for District 1, and incumbent Joseph

Morabito was the sole nominee for District 3.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Elections Code § 10229, if no one or only one person has been nominated to be elected within a legislative district, the City Council may take one of the following actions when, as here, one person has been nominated in the district:

1. Appoint to office the person who was nominated for that district and cancel the Election for that district.
2. Direct that the election be held in that district.

In accordance with Elections Code § 10229, at the close of the nomination period on August 7, 2026, the City Clerk submitted a certification that only one person was nominated to be elected for Member of the City Council for Districts 1 and 3 (Exhibit A). The City Clerk also published a notice of insufficient nominees in the Press Enterprise, notifying the public that only one person was nominated to be elected in each Districts 1 and 3 (Exhibit B).

Per Elections Code §10229, after the fifth day following publication of the notice, the City Council may take action. The notice was published on August 12, 2026, therefore, at this time, it would be appropriate for the City Council to take one of the following actions:

1. Adopt a Resolution appointing Carlos Marquez to the office of Member of the City Council, District 1, and Joseph Morabito to the office of Member of the City Council, District 3, to take offices and serve exactly as if elected in District 1 and District 3 and cancel the elections in District 1 and District 3;

or

2. Direct that the election be held in Districts 1 and 3.

If the City Council appoints the nominees in lieu of the election for City Council Districts 1 and 3, the City Clerk shall not accept for filing any statement of write-in candidacy which is submitted after the appointments are made.

The action to adopt the resolution has to be completed no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 20th, or the election will go on as scheduled (Carlos Marquez' and Joseph Morabito's names will remain on the ballot, and write-in candidates will be accepted and processed, if they are received, for Districts 1 and 3, in accordance with the Elections Code).

ACCOUNT CODE:

100-410-4130-52120

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City consolidates with the Riverside County Registrar of Voters to conduct its General Municipal Elections. The City is charged approximately \$3.50 per registered voter for each district in which a City Council contest appears on the ballot.

If the City Council appoints the sole nominees in Districts 1 and 3 in lieu of conducting an election for those offices, the City is estimated to avoid approximately \$14,000 in election

costs for District 1 and \$16,000 for District 3, for a total estimated savings of \$30,000. The election for District 5 would proceed as scheduled.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution Appointing and Cancelling Election

Exhibit A - City Clerks Certification - Districts 1 and 3

Exhibit B - Notice - Insufficient Nominees - Press Enterprise