



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 2.4

MEETING DATE: 08/26/2025

DEPARTMENT: COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER/ELECTIONS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Francisco Diaz

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Francisco Diaz

SUBJECT:

ELECTIONS - F. DIAZ

Adopt Resolution Acknowledging the November 4, 2025, special state election to propose amendments to the California Constitution related to the congressional redistricting process and authorize the Chair to sign; and Authorize the Human Resources Department to initiate recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of temporary staff necessary to support the Elections Office in planning, conducting, and concluding the special election.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 285

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025-68

AGENDA SECTION:

REGULAR AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Summary

This agenda item requests the Board of Supervisor's approval to adopt a resolution formally acknowledging the upcoming special election scheduled for November 4, 2025. The purpose of this special election is to propose amendments to the California Constitution that would revise the current process for congressional redistricting. Approval of the resolution will also authorize the Board Chair to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the Board. Furthermore, the resolution directs the Human Resources Department to initiate recruitment of temporary staff to support the administration and operations of the special election, ensuring adequate staffing and operational readiness.

Operational Planning and Resources Constraints for the November 4, 2025 Election

Due to the standard agenda process timeline which may take up to 30 days to add documents, the resolution, and associated agenda time are being presented proactively in anticipation of the redistricting

decision, which was approved by the Legislature on August 21st. This proactive scheduling is necessary to provide the Elections Office sufficient lead time to commence critical preparations, including recruitment of temporary staff, contracting of services, leasing of facilities, and execution of required agreements, all to ensure the successful conduct of the special election.

Given the expedited timeline and statutory obligations, the Elections Office requests that the Board exempt it from the current hiring freeze to allow prompt recruitment of temporary personnel. The Elections Office acknowledges the importance of fiscal prudence and assures the Board that recruitment and expenditures will be strictly limited to what is legally required. This includes limiting voting centers to two locations and reducing the number of ballot drop boxes to three, down from previous levels, to ensure operational efficiency and compliance while maximizing state reimbursement opportunities.

No non-reimbursable expenditures, such as additional vote centers or drop boxes, will be made without prior approval from the Board of Supervisors. Due to these fiscal and logistical constraints, it is important for both the Board and public to understand that voter access will be impacted. The November 2025 special election will operate with reduced voting hours, fewer in-person voting locations, and a significant decrease in the number of drop boxes compared to previous elections. Additionally, the number of poll workers will be limited to align with the scale of the election. Timely approval of this resolution by the Board is critical to ensure the Elections Office can meet all legal obligations while conducting a secure, accessible, and compliant election.

Financial Impact

The Elections Office will utilize its existing Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget to administer the special election scheduled for November 4, 2025. As of August 21st estimate, the projected cost of conducting the election ranges between \$325,000 to \$375,000. However, to meet the operational and financial requirements of the upcoming 2026 Primary Election, the Elections Office will need to replenish its budget. The department intends to return to the Board of Supervisors in January 2026 to request a budget augmentation, following the reconciliation of actual costs associated with the special election.

FISCAL IMPACT:

General Fund. Estimated cost of \$325,000 to \$375,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution Acknowledging the November 4, 2025, special state election to propose amendments to the California Constitution related to the congressional redistricting process and authorize the Chair to sign; and Authorize the Human Resources Department to initiate recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of temporary staff necessary to support the Elections Office in planning, conducting, and concluding the special election.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Board Agenda Fact Sheet - Special Election](#)
[Resolution Special Election](#)
[Explanation Letter](#)