



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

REPORT

To The Honorable Mayor and City Council

DATE: July 12, 1999

REPORT NO.: 99-04

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE
DIVISION 21-NOMINATIONS; AND DIVISION 32-WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

ISSUE

The City Clerk has recognized the need to review and update the Nominations division of the San Diego Municipal Code, which outlines the process through which the names of candidates for elective office are placed on the municipal ballot. A corresponding review and update of the nomination process for write-in candidates is also needed.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the amendments to the Nominations and Write-In Candidates divisions as proposed.

DISCUSSION

On June 21, 1999, the Committee on Rules, Finance and Intergovernmental Relations approved the City Clerk's proposals regarding amendments to the Nominations division, including the following three substantive changes:

- ◆ the elimination of separate petitions in lieu of the candidate filing fee, with petitions replaced by the provision that excess signatures collected on nominating petitions may be used to reduce the filing fee
- ◆ the reduction of the number of nominating signatures required of City Council candidates to qualify for the ballot (from 200 to 100); and the reduction of the number of nominating signatures required of Mayoral and City Attorney candidates to qualify for the ballot (from 300 to 200)
- ◆ the elimination of specific references to the Board of Education

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These substantive changes are discussed in depth in City Clerk Report 99-02 to the Committee on Rules, Finance and Intergovernmental Relations (attached).

In addition, we are making numerous housekeeping changes for the purpose of clarifying the nominations procedure, and to address problems in administering that procedure. Three of the housekeeping changes are of some note:

(1) We have eliminated references to regular district primary elections held in odd-numbered years, as all regular elections are now consolidated with statewide primary elections, held in even-numbered years.

(2) In the case of a special election called to fill a vacated elective office, we have altered the deadlines for candidates to obtain and to file nomination papers, in order to provide the Registrar of Voters a more realistic amount of time to prepare and distribute the ballot.

(3) We have streamlined the form of the nominating petition, so that:

- (a) the candidate's Statement and Affidavit is no longer attached to each petition set, but remains on file in the Clerk's Office; and
- (b) the circulator's Affidavit of Authenticity appears as part of the petition page signed by voters. Additionally, we have clarified the fact that the circulator must sign the Affidavit in order for signatures appended to it to be valid.

The amended nomination process for write-in candidates essentially mirrors the amended process for candidates whose names are to appear on the ballot, with differences arising from (a) the fact that a write-in candidate takes out and submits nomination papers after the regular nomination period has ended; and (b) the fact that a write-in candidate's name does not appear on the ballot.

SUMMARY

In summary, the City Clerk proposes these amendments clarifying and streamlining the nomination process, making it less cumbersome for candidates yet no less informative for voters, and enabling the Clerk to provide better administration of the nomination and write-in candidate processes. I look forward to your consideration of these amendments. As always, should you have questions or comments, I would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,



Charles G. Abdelnour
City Clerk

Attachments

cc: City Attorney
City Manager