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COUNCILMEMBERS SUGGEST LEVELING THE ELECTION PLAYING FIELD
Chris Cate and Mark Kersey Recommend November-Only Election; Eliminating June Primary

San Diego, CA: As a result of San Diego voters approving Measures K and L in 2016, the City of San Diego has drastically altered its local election process with regard to ballot measures and candidate elections. These reforms were advocated by a constituency that hoped to decrease the influence of money in local political races and increase voter participation through the elimination of an outright winner in municipal primary elections.

"The intent of Measures K and L was to have the highest turnout electing our City's leaders. This proposal will build upon these Measures by allowing the most voters to vote for a full field of candidates, not just the top two, thus leveling our election playing field," said Councilmember Chris Cate.

However, these ballot measures will maintain a June primary election, thus ensuring a longer campaign season that will require continual financial support and solicitation. Furthermore, June primary voters will have the ability to decide the top two vote-getters, continuing the influence over November-only voters who are forced to decide between one of the two pre-determined candidates.

"The passage of Measure K means municipal decisions are not made in June elections. A November-only model would save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on City primaries that are no longer meaningful," stated Councilmember Mark Kersey.

Summarized below are two voting methods that other jurisdictions are currently utilizing, and that should be considered within the framework of November-only elections:

1. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), or instant run-off voting, provides voters with the opportunity to rank candidates in order of preference until one secures a majority after the conclusion of multiple voting rounds. This voting model would give San Diegans the ability to choose from a wider selection of candidates in a single general election, thus increasing voter participation.
2. Top Vote Getter. In San Diego County and across the country, municipalities utilize a plurality system of voting wherein all candidates who qualify appear on the ballot, with the candidate receiving the most votes winning the election.

View the Councilmembers' memorandum here: http://bit.ly/2Jj7Ggb

WHAT: City of San Dan Diego's Committee on Rules

WHERE: City of San Diego, Committee Room, 12th Floor, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

WHEN: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.