

June 22, 2005

City Council Meeting
June 28, 2005

Mayor and Members
of the City Council

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING REGULATIONS FOR CANDIDATES
FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE PERTAINING TO CANDIDATES
STATEMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT AN
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution, which, consistent with past policy, establishes a 200-word limit and requires candidates to pay all associated costs with regard to candidates statements for the November 8, 2005 General Municipal Election.

Background:

The California Elections Code allows each candidate for a nonpartisan elective office in a city to prepare a statement to be included with the sample ballot and mailed to each registered voter. The law requires the Council to adopt a policy regarding the candidates' obligation for payment for candidates' statements no later than seven days before the nomination period opens. The filing period for nomination papers is July 18 through August 12 for the upcoming November election. Attached is a draft resolution outlining the candidate statement policy.

Traditionally, it has been Council policy to require the candidates to cover all costs associated with their statements, and the attached resolution has been prepared assuming that the policy will be maintained. The City Clerk is required to set the estimated cost of candidate statements prior to the nomination-filing period. The County has indicated they will provide me that information the first week in July.

State law permits Council to authorize an increase in the limitation on words for the statement from 200 to 400 words. Past policy has restricted the statements to 200 words, and the attached resolution has been prepared assuming that the policy will be maintained. The 200-word limit has seemed adequate in the past, and increasing the word limit would increase the cost.

The resolution also accommodates any required translation of statements into one or more foreign languages, pursuant to the federal Voting Rights Act. Hermosa Beach has not been required to do any translations into foreign languages in past elections and it appears that the same will hold true for this election. However, since I have nothing in writing at this time from the County, I have included a provision in the resolution, which states that translation and printing "may be required."

Elaine Doerfling, City Clerk

Noted:

Stephen R. Burrell, City Manager