



SB 415
THE CALIFORNIA VOTER
PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT
AND
THE CITY OF NOVATO

Presented by Claudia Laughter-City Clerk





BACKGROUND

- SB 415 was signed into law on September 1, 2015 by Governor Jerry Brown
- Due to significant decreases in voter turnout for elections held in odd numbered years, local governments who had at least 25% less voter turnout in the past 4 State-wide elections would need to move their elections to be held concurrently with statewide election dates (June or November of Even numbered years)
- The purpose of SB 415 is to have the greatest percentage of voters turning out for an election across all divisions of government
- Elections must be converted to even years by 2022
- Local governments must develop and approve a plan to convert to even years and have the ordinance changing the election dates approved by the Board of Supervisors before January 1, 2018



CITY OF NOVATO

- 2 City Council seats scheduled for November 2017
- 3 City Council seats scheduled for November 2019
- All seats have 4-year terms
- Standard costs for elections are \$1.75-\$3.00 per registered voter
- In 2016, Novato had 31,289 registered voters
- Standard budgeted costs are generally for \$65,000 - \$75,000



TIMELINE





SB 415 COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

Option 1

Change to even years in 2020
Hold 2017 Election w/UGB
One-time alteration for 2017 and 2019
Council seats to 3 year terms

Higher election costs in 2017 and 2019
By 2020, established to even years and 4-year terms

Option 2

Change to even years in 2022
Hold 2017 Election w/UGB
One-time alteration for 2017 and 2019
Council seats for 5 year terms

Higher election costs in 2017 and 2019
By 2020, established to even years and back to 4-year terms

Option 3

Change to even years in 2018
Defer 2017 Council Election (Keep UGB)
One-time extension by Council action for all
Council seats by 1 year

Election costs in 2017 (for UGB), 2018,
and 2020

Option 4

Change elections to June 2018
Defer 2017 Council Election
One-time extension all Council seats by 6
months

Election costs in 2017 (for UGB), June
2018, and June 2020
Lower voter turnout in June elections



SB 415 COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

Option 5

Rejection all options and provide further direction to staff on permutations (additional options below)

5-A. Hold 2017 Election w/UGB
2 seats for 5 year terms (2022)
Extend 3 seats for 2019 by 1 year (2020)
2017 Estimated costs: \$125k-\$187k
2020 Estimated costs: \$55k-\$94k

5-B. Defer 2017; move 2 seats to 2018
Move UGB to 2018 Ballot
Extend 3 seats for 2019 by 1 year
Estimated Costs: \$55k-\$94k

5.C – Hold 2017 Election w/UGB
2 seats for a 3 year term (expired in 2020)
Reduce 3 seats to a 3 year term (election in 2018)
2017 Estimated costs: \$125k-187k
2018 Estimated costs: \$55k-\$94k



FISCAL IMPACT

Potential cost increase for off-cycle year elections from \$55,000-\$94,000 (\$1.75-3.00 per registered voter) to \$125,000-\$187,000 (\$4.00-\$6.00 per registered voter)

Option 1

2017 Election: 2 seats w/UGB (\$125k-\$187k)
2019 Election: 3 seats (\$125k-\$187k)

Option 2

2017 Election: 2 seats w/UGB (\$125k-\$187k)
2019 Election: 3 seats (\$125k-\$187k)

Option 3

2017 Election: UGB only (\$125k-\$187k)
2018 Election: 2 seats (\$55k-\$94k)
2020 Election: 3 seats (\$55k-\$94k)

Option 4

Nov 2017 Election: UGB Only (\$125k-\$187k)
June 2018 Election: 2 seats Unknown
June 2020 Election: 3 seats Unknown



MARIN COUNTY COMPLIANCE*

*Ross, Sausalito, and Belvedere currently hold elections on even years.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	COMPLIANCE MEASURE
SAN RAFAEL	Proceeding with 2017 with 5 year terms; Seats scheduled for 2019 will be moved to 2020
MILL VALLEY	Council collecting community input before deciding
TIBURON	Proceeding with 2017 and 2019 Elections with one-time 3-year terms
CORTE MADERA	Proceeding with 2017 and 2019 Elections with 4.5-year terms and changing to June
FAIRFAX	Discussing at April 5 th Town Council Meeting
SAN ANSELMO	Proceeding with 2017 and 2019 Elections with one-time 3-year terms
ROSS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	Cancelled 2017 election, moved to 2018; unanimously added 1 year to all terms
MILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	Cancelled 2017 election, moved to 2018; unanimously added 1 year to all terms



NOVATO AGENCIES COMPLIANCE

ORGANIZATION	COMPLIANCE MEASURE
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DIST	Moved election to 2018; Unanimous to add 1 year to terms (Elections will occur in 2018 and 2020)
NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT	Moved election to 2018 and added 1 year to all terms
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT	Moved election to 2018 and added 1 year to all terms
NOVATO FIRE DISTRICT	Moved election to 2018 and added 1 year to all terms



STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Staff has recommend either Option 1 or 2 based on the Council's previous instruction to place the UGB on the November 2017 ballot:
 - Continue with the 2017 Election for 2 seats & UGB ballot measure
 - Make a one-time change all Council terms to either 3 or 5 years

QUESTIONS



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA