

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-5

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LAKEWOOD MOVING THE CITY'S GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR  
MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020

WHEREAS, City of Lakewood (the "City") general municipal elections are now held in March of odd-numbered years, to elect five members of the City Council, with three members elected in one year and two members elected two years removed; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Senate Bill 415 (SB 415) compel the City to consolidate its general municipal elections with a statewide election date, not later than November, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Sections 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code authorize the City Council to reschedule its general municipal elections to increase or decrease any terms of office by not more than 12 months; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 415 authorize the City Council to move the general municipal election presently set for March, 2019, to March 2020; and

WHEREAS, Martin & Chapman, the City's longtime election consultant, has informed the City that it is going out of business, and will not be available to run an election for the City in 2019, leaving the City with only the option of paying Los Angeles County to run a 2019 election; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has provided the City with a \$500,000 cost estimate for running an election in March, 2019, when the City had budgeted \$152,000 for election costs, based on historical data and trends; and

WHEREAS, the City has a structural budget deficit due primarily to flat revenues and rapidly increasing CalPERS costs, and there are no funds available in the City's 2018-19 budget to pay such massively increased election costs; and

WHEREAS, if the City holds an election in March, 2019, the unanticipated costs will necessarily require cutbacks in important services to City residents; and

WHEREAS, if the City does not receive approval to move the 2019 election to 2020 from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors prior to the City's deadline for calling a 2019 election, which deadline is October 14, 2018, the City will be forced to call a 2019 election, and it is necessary that this Ordinance take effect immediately to insure that the Board of Supervisors will be able to act on this item before that October 14 deadline.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Change of Election Date. Pursuant to Sections 1000 and 1301 of the California Elections Code, the City's general municipal election presently set for March, 2019, is hereby moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, 2020.

SECTION 2. Adjustment to Terms of Office. Pursuant to Section 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code, the term of any elected City officeholder that would have expired in March, 2019, shall instead expire in the same manner, but after the occurrence of the general municipal election to be held in March, 2020.

SECTION 3. In the event that any provision in this Ordinance is in conflict with any provision in the Lakewood Municipal Code, this Ordinance shall prevail.

SECTION 4. Consolidated Election. Pursuant to Section 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code, the City hereby requests that the County of Los Angeles approve this Ordinance and allow for the consolidation of the City's proposed 2020 general municipal election with the statewide election to be conducted by the County in March, 2020. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Ordinance to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors with a request that it be approved.

SECTION 5. Operative Date. This Ordinance shall become operative upon approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In the event that the Board does not approve this Ordinance prior to the deadline for the City Council taking the actions necessary to call a general municipal election for March, 2019, the City Council may proceed to take such actions, despite the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. Notice to Voters. Pursuant to Section 10403.5(e) of the California Elections Code, within 30 days after this Ordinance becomes operative, the City's Elections Official shall cause notice to be mailed to all registered voters, informing the voters of the change in election dates made by this Ordinance, and that, as a result of such change, the terms of office of City officeholders will be extended by not more than 12 months.

SECTION 7. The City Council hereby declares it would have passed this Ordinance sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph and section by section, and does hereby declare the provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if for any reason any section of this Ordinance should be held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby finds and determines there are no newspapers of general circulation both published and circulated within the City and, in compliance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, directs the City Clerk to cause said Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after its passage to be posted in at least three (3) public places within the City as established by Ordinance.

SECTION 9. The City Council hereby finds and determines that, based on the facts set forth hereinabove, this Ordinance is for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare; accordingly, this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 11th day of September, 2018, by the following roll call vote:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Council Member Piazza	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Council Member DuBois	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Council Member Rogers	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Council Member Wood	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Mayor Croft	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk