

City of Piedmont
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 16, 2007
FROM: Ann Swift, City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Regular Municipal Election of 2008**

RECOMMENDATION

Consider placing a ballot measure changing the city's regular municipal election date on either a special election ballot in November 2007 or on the Regular Municipal Election ballot for March 4, 2008.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, the council directed staff to explore options for the Regular Municipal Election of March 4, 2008. At that time, Dave MacDonald, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, had advised that it would not be possible for his office to handle the city's election due to its proximity to the State Primary Election to be held on February 5.

Since the last council meeting, the registrar has met with his staff and determined that his office could accommodate Piedmont's need for an election on March 4. This will be a stand alone election at a cost of approximately \$40,000.

However, Mr. MacDonald has requested that the city consider placing a charter amendment on a special election ballot in November 2007, which would consolidate the city's Regular Municipal Election with the State Primary Election in February. Such an election would also be stand alone and would cost approximately \$40,000. However, if voters approved such the measure, costs for the February election would be reduced to approximately \$20,000.

I believe that the city needs to change the date for its Regular Municipal Election, however, I believe the charter amendment must be carefully drafted to accomplish two things: consolidate Piedmont's election to increase voter turnout and reduce costs and select a date which is stable and will not be changed by the state legislature

One such date is November of even numbered years.

Council may wish to consider drafting a charter amendment which would change Piedmont's election date to February 5, 2008 and, thereafter, moving it to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even numbered years.