

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2023**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 18

**SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 438 TO ARTICLE XXIV-A OF THE SAN
DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO VOLUNTEER
ELECTION POLL WORKERS AND ELECTION SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS
(11/07/2023 - First Reading; 12/05/2023 - Second Reading, unless ordinance is
modified on second reading) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On November 7, 2023 (20), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on December 5, 2023.

With over 1.9 million active registered voters, the mission of the Registrar of Voters (ROV) is to conduct voter registration and voting processes with the highest level of professional election standards, including accountability, security and integrity, thereby earning and maintaining public confidence in the electoral process. The ROV conducts elections on behalf of the more than 500 political districts in San Diego County.

Today's actions request that the Board of Supervisors review and approve an ordinance to add Section 438 to Article XXIV-A of the San Diego County Administrative Code related to stipends and expense allowances for volunteer poll workers and other election support volunteers. This recommended action recognizes the exceptional commitment involved in order to perform an important civic function. Under the County's vote center model, voting is open for eleven or four days, including Election Day. Service as a poll worker involves long hours to open, close and operate vote centers and many are called upon to transport election materials. Costs and expense for transportation, parking, meals, child or elder care, and other incidentals can be a deterrent for individuals who have an interest in becoming a poll worker.

The ROV, Auditor & Controller and Department of Human Resources have faced many challenges with each election in the recruitment, training, on-boarding, time tracking, and pay warrants for thousands of poll workers. With the change to the multi-day vote center model that began in June 2022, the prior stipend/allowance structure for volunteer poll workers working on Election Day was replaced with an hourly rate based on the number of hours of service. However, this caused significant County personnel time and administrative demands for time tracking and processing payroll. A stipend and/or expense allowance is similar to the County's previous model and that of many other counties for their volunteer poll workers. This will provide greater flexibility and reduce administrative burdens associated with administering the County's volunteer poll worker and election support volunteer programs.

Today's actions include introducing an Ordinance adding Section 438 to Article XXIV-A of the San Diego County Administrative Code (first reading) and if approved, it will be scheduled for adoption on December 5, 2023. If the proposed ordinance is altered on December 5, 2023, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the ordinance's adoption.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the adoption of the following Ordinance (second reading):

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 438 TO ARTICLE XXIV-A OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO VOLUNTEER ELECTION POLL WORKERS AND ELECTION SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

If the proposed ordinance is altered on December 5, 2023, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for the ordinance's adoption.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

A person's vote can influence policy and who represents them in government, which in turn impacts their environment, health, and quality of life. Having the appropriate resources to conduct a fair, accurate and transparent election allows all eligible citizens to have a part in matters that affect them.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

A person's vote has a direct influence on the sustainability of their neighborhood, community, and local region. By voting, San Diego residents have a direct impact on their health, equity, the economy and environment. With the County's implementation of the vote center model, all active registered voters receive a ballot in the mail as required by current law. This increases accessibility by providing voters with the opportunity to consider the method that is most convenient for them to return their ballot and has the possibility of reducing vehicle miles traveled to cast their vote. In addition, voters have the option of receiving their voter information guides electronically to reduce paper waste. The recommended action today aligns with the County of San Diego Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access to County services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan in the Registrar of Voters. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Ordinance No. 10871 (N.S.), entitled: **AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 438 TO ARTICLE XXIV-A OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO VOLUNTEER ELECTION POLL WORKERS AND ELECTION SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS.**

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter