



## OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

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City Attorney

March 11, 2025

**GARY J. ANDERSON**  
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Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to declare the attached Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Long Beach (City) amending the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) by amending and restating Section 2.01.210.B; and repealing Section 1.15.020.A, all relating to municipal elections, read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading. (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION

On January 16, 2019, Ordinance No. ORD-19-0001 was adopted repealing and amending certain sections of the Long Beach Municipal Code to conform to the California Voter Participation Rights Act (SB 415, codified as California Elections Code §§ 14050-14057), effective January 1, 2018, which prohibits a public agency, including a charter city, from holding its regular election on any date other than a statewide election date if holding the election on a non-statewide election date results in a "significant decrease in voter turnout," which is defined as at least 25 percent (25%) less than the average voter turnout within the public agency for the previous four (4) statewide general elections.

Ordinance No. ORD-19-0001 specifically repealed the outdated definition of the election cycle as defined in Section 2.01.210.B of the Long Beach Municipal Code. As a result, this repeal left Chapter 2.01 of the Long Beach Campaign Reform Act without a clear definition of "election cycle."

On November 8, 2022, the voters of the City of Long Beach approved Measure LBC to amend Section 1901 of the City Charter to hold City municipal elections on the same dates as statewide election dates. It specifically aligned the primary and general election dates of the city with that of the state's in even-numbered years.

On December 8, 2023, Ordinance No. ORD-23-0049 was adopted, amending Section 1.15.020.A of the Long Beach Municipal Code, which added language regarding the election cycle for primary nominating elections and general municipal elections. Section 1.15.020.A is

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now outdated and should be removed to prevent any inconsistency with Los Angeles County's election cycle.

To improve clarity within Chapter 2.01 of the Long Beach Campaign Reform Act, the correct definition of "election cycle" should be added to Section 2.01.210.B of the Long Beach Municipal Code. Election cycle is defined as "that period commencing with January 1 of an odd-numbered year and ending December 31 of the following year. For a special election, the election cycle commences with the declaration of a vacancy in an elective office and ends six (6) months after the special election date."

Pursuant to Section 2.01.1240.A of the Long Beach Municipal Code, the Long Beach Campaign Reform Act may be amended from time to time by ordinance adopted by an affirmative 2/3 vote of the members of the City Council upon a finding by the Council that such amendment is consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes of this Chapter.


This Office has prepared and now submits the above-described ordinance for your consideration. If the ordinance is approved, the City Clerk will cause it to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney



By:  
Deputy City Attorney

ATTACHMENT 1 - Redline of Changes to Current Code

ANS:kd A25-00500  
01784646.DOCX