

Attachment 1: California Election Code, Sections 14050-14057 and 10404-10404.5

ELECTIONS CODE

DIVISION 14. ELECTION DAY PROCEDURES [14000 - 14443]

(Division 14 enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

CHAPTER 1.7. Voter Participation [14050 - 14057]

(Chapter 1.7 added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1.)

14050.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the California Voter Participation Rights Act.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14051.

As used in this chapter:

(a) "Political subdivision" means a geographic area of representation created for the provision of government services, including, but not limited to, a city, a school district, a community college district, or other district organized pursuant to state law.

(b) "Significant decrease in voter turnout" means the voter turnout for a regularly scheduled election in a political subdivision is at least 25 percent less than the average voter turnout within that political subdivision for the previous four statewide general elections.

(c) "Voter turnout" means the percentage of voters who are eligible to cast ballots within a given political subdivision who voted.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14052.

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), a political subdivision shall not hold an election other than on a statewide election date if holding an election on a nonconcurrent date has previously resulted in a significant decrease in voter turnout.

(b) A political subdivision may hold an election other than on a statewide election date if, by January 1, 2018, the political subdivision has adopted a plan to consolidate a future election with a statewide election not later than the November 8, 2022, statewide general election.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14053.

Upon a finding of a violation of subdivision (a) of Section 14052, the court shall implement appropriate remedies, including the imposition of concurrent election dates for future elections and the upgrade of voting equipment or systems to do so. In imposing remedies pursuant to this section, a court may also require a county board of supervisors to approve consolidation pursuant to Section 10402.5.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14054.

In an action to enforce subdivision (a) of Section 14052, the court shall allow the prevailing plaintiff other than the state or political subdivision of the state, a reasonable attorney's fee consistent with the standards established in *Serrano v. Priest* (1977) 20 Cal.3d 25, 48-49, and litigation expenses including, but not limited to, expert witness fees and expenses as part of the costs. A prevailing defendant shall not recover any costs, unless the court finds the action to be frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14055.

A voter who resides in a political subdivision where a violation of subdivision (a) of Section 14052 is alleged may file an action pursuant to that section in the superior court of the county in which the political subdivision is located.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14056.

This chapter does not apply to special elections.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Section operative January 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 14057.)

14057.

This chapter shall become operative on January 1, 2018.

(Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 235, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 2016. Note: This section postpones, until January 1, 2018, the operation of Chapter 1.7, commencing with Section 14050.)

DIVISION 10. LOCAL, SPECIAL, VACANCY, AND CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS [10000 - 10735]

(Division 10 enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

PART 3. CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTIONS [10404 – 10404.5]

(Part 3 enacted by Stats. 1994, Ch. 920, Sec. 2.)

10404.

(a) This section applies only to special districts electing members of the governing body in odd-numbered years. As used in this section, “special district” means an agency of the state formed pursuant to general law or special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries, except a city, county, city and county, school or community college district, or special assessment district.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a governing body of a special district may, by resolution, require that its elections of governing body members be held on the same day as the statewide general election.

(1) The resolution setting the election shall also include dates that are consistent with the primary or general election with respect to nominations, notices, canvass of votes, certification of election, and all other procedural requirements of this code pertaining to the primary or general election.

(2) The resolution shall be submitted to the board of supervisors no later than 240 days prior to the date of the currently scheduled district election.

(c) The board of supervisors shall notify all districts located in the county of the receipt of the resolution to consolidate and shall request input from each district on the effect of consolidation.

(d) The elections official shall prepare and transmit to the board of supervisors an impact analysis of the proposed consolidation.

(e) The board of supervisors, within 60 days from the date of submission, shall approve the resolution unless it finds that the ballot style, voting equipment, or computer capacity is such that additional elections or materials cannot be handled. Prior to the adoption of a resolution to either approve or deny a consolidation request, the board or boards of supervisors shall each obtain from the elections official a report on the cost-effectiveness of the proposed action.

(f) Within 30 days after the approval of the resolution, the elections official shall notify all registered voters of the districts affected by the consolidation of the approval of the resolution by the board of supervisors. The notice shall be delivered by mail and at the expense of the district.

(g) Public notices of the proceedings in which the resolution is to be considered for adoption shall be made pursuant to Section 25151 of the Government Code.

(h) If a special district is located in more than one county, the special district may not consolidate an election if any county in which the special district is located denies the request for consolidation.

(i) If, pursuant to subdivision (b), a special district election is held on the same day as the statewide general election, those governing body members whose terms of office would have, prior to the adoption of the resolution, expired prior to that election shall, instead, continue in their offices until their successors are elected and qualified, but in no event shall the term be extended beyond December 31 of the year following the year in which the request for consolidation is approved by the board of supervisors.

(j) If a board of supervisors approves the resolution pursuant to subdivision (e), the special district election shall be conducted on the date specified by the board of supervisors, in accordance with subdivision (a), unless the approval is later rescinded by the board of supervisors.

(k) If the date of a special district election is changed pursuant to this section, at least one election shall be held before the resolution, as approved by the board of supervisors, may be subsequently repealed or amended.

(Amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 731, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2016.)

10404.5.

(a) A resolution of the governing board of a school district or county board of education to establish an election day pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1302 shall be adopted and submitted to the board of supervisors not later than 240 days prior to the date of the currently scheduled election of the district or for the members of the county board of education.

(b) The final date for the submission of the resolution by the governing board of a school district or county board of education to the board of supervisors is not subject to waiver.

(c) The board of supervisors shall notify all school districts and the county board of education located in the county of the receipt of the resolution to consolidate and shall request input from each district on the effect of consolidation.

(d) (1) The board of supervisors, within 60 days from the date of submission, shall approve the resolution unless it finds that the ballot style, voting equipment, or computer capacity is such that additional elections or materials cannot be handled. Prior to the adoption of a resolution to either approve or deny a consolidation request, the board or boards of supervisors may obtain from the elections official a report on the cost-effectiveness of the proposed action.

(2) Public notices of the proceedings in which the resolution is to be considered for adoption shall be made pursuant to Section 25151 of the Government Code.

(e) Within 30 days after the approval of the resolution by the board of supervisors, the elections official shall notify all registered voters of the districts affected by the consolidation of the approval of the resolution by the board of supervisors. The notice shall be delivered by mail and at the expense of the school district or if applicable, the county board of education.

(f) An election day established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1302 shall be prescribed to occur not less than one month, nor more than 12 months, subsequent to the election day prescribed in Section 5000 of the Education Code or pursuant to Section 1007 of the Education Code, as appropriate. As used in this subdivision, "12 months" means the period from the election day prescribed in Section 5000 of the Education Code or pursuant to Section 1007 of the Education Code, as appropriate, to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the 12th month subsequent to that day, inclusive.

(g) In the event that the election day for a school district governing board or county board of education is established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1302, the term of office of all then incumbent members of that governing board or county board of education shall be extended accordingly.

(Amended by Stats. 2004, Ch. 227, Sec. 16. Effective August 16, 2004.)